



a contemporary art space

**SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS
AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF SEASON FIVE OF
THE PEABODY AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY
*ART:21 – ART IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY***

*ART21 PARTNERS WITH ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE TO HOST EVENTS INSPIRED BY
ART:21 SEASON FIVE, PREMIERING THIS OCTOBER ON PBS*

Santa Fe, NM – October 6, 2009 – SITE Santa Fe, a leading southwestern contemporary arts organization, in partnership with Art21, Inc. as part of its Art21 Access '09 initiative, presents a sneak preview of the fifth season of *Art:21—Art in the Twenty-First Century*, the only prime time national television series focused exclusively on contemporary art, on October 8-11, 2009 at SITE Santa Fe. SITE will screen four episodes of season 5 in SITE's lobby, during opening weekend of the *Talking Pictures* exhibition. This event is free and open to the public.

Art21 Access '09 is an international screening initiative created to increase knowledge of contemporary art, ignite dialogue, and inspire creative thinking through hundreds of public screenings and events that tailor the ideas presented in the series to the interests and concerns of local audiences. The season premieres on PBS October 7th with a new episode each Wednesday during the month at 10pm (Our local PBS affiliate KUNM Ch. 5/1 will air the four episodes on 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, and 10.28). Through in-depth profiles and interviews, the four-part series reveals the inspiration, vision and techniques behind the creative works of some of today's most thought-provoking artists.

"Art21 Access '09 draws the *Art:21* television-viewing audience together in communities around the world and provides a wonderfully enhanced *Art:21* experience," said Susan Sollins, Executive Producer of *Art:21*. "We hope that audiences will take full advantage of the events in their area and develop an understanding of the complex skills, techniques and knowledge that artists bring to their work. Our goal is that these events contribute to boosting the confidence of audiences worldwide to view and appreciate all art forms."

Art21 Access '09 events are presented in partnership with Americans for the Arts as part of National Arts and Humanities Month, the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation, held every October. An updated list of Art21 Access '09 events and venues worldwide can be found at www.art21.org/access09.

Art21 Access '09 events are being hosted by museums, schools, libraries, art spaces, community centers, and universities. Each event features an exclusive advance screening of one or two episodes from Season Five of the documentary, as well as an educational component, such as talks by local, regional, and national artists, lectures, panel discussions, interactive art-making projects and question-and-answer sessions.

All four episodes will be screened during the weekend of October 8-11, 2009:

Episode 1: Compassion

This episode features artists whose works explore the possibility of understanding and reconciling past and present, while exposing injustice and expressing tolerance for others. William Kentridge, Carrie Mae Weems and Doris Salcedo are featured.

Episode 2: Fantasy

Fantasy presents four artists whose works or personal stories transport viewers to imaginary worlds and altered states of consciousness. With works that seem at times hallucinatory, irreverent, and sublime, each of these artists pursues a vision first held in the mind's eye. Jeff Koons, Mary Heilmann, Florian Maier-Aichen and Cao Fei are featured.

Episode 3: Transformation

Whether observing and satirizing society or reinventing icons of literature, art history, and popular culture, the artists featured in *Transformation* capture the sensibilities of our age while at times inhabiting the characters they have created. Yinka Shonibare MBE, Cindy Sherman and Paul McCarthy are featured.

Episode 4: Systems

Artists invent new processes to convey the attitudes of today's supercharged, information-based society, examining why we find comfort in some systems while rebelling against others. *Systems* features artists who realize complex projects through acts of appropriation or accumulation. In some instances, they create projects vast in scope, which almost elude comprehension. Julie Mehretu, John Baldessari, Kimsooja and Allan McCollum are featured.

ABOUT ART21

Over the past ten years, Art21 has established itself as the preeminent chronicler of contemporary art and artists through its Peabody Award-winning biennial television series Art:21—Art in the Twenty-First Century. The organization has used the power of digital media to expose millions of people of all ages to contemporary art and artists and has created a new paradigm for teaching and learning about the creative process.

In addition to its PBS series and year-round series-based education and public programs efforts, Art21 has expanded its film production and educational efforts in recent years. Several new initiatives have been launched in the past year, including the premiere of the new short-format documentary series Art21—Exclusive on multiple online platforms and expansion of the Art21 Blog. New programs are also in the works, including a feature film as well as Art21 Educators, an ongoing professional development program for teachers. www.art21.org.

Find Art21 on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/art21) (facebook.com/art21) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/art21) (twitter.com/art21).

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