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SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS:
JAMES DRAKE: CITY OF TELLS

February 12– May 1, 2005

Santa Fe, NM – SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present ***James Drake: City of Tells***, an exhibition featuring a new installation of large-scale drawings and video, from February 12–May 1, 2005. Free public preview: Friday, February 11, from 5–7 PM.

In gambling parlance, a “tell” is the subconscious broadcasting of one’s emotional, psychological, and intellectual make-up. “All human beings in complex societies reveal ‘tells,’” says Drake, “and this particular human trait was my motivation for *City of Tells*.” Drake explores animal and human nature in this exhibition of his latest work. The SITE Santa Fe installation includes three large-scale charcoal drawings, a video component in four parts, and a limited edition book.

Inspired by Raphael's renowned painting, *School of Athens*, which immortalizes the great philosophers, Drake composed his own Renaissance tableau incorporating portraits of his family and friends, as well as historical and contemporary influences such as Diego Rivera, Dante, Cormac McCarthy, Bruce Nauman, La Malinche, Murray Gell-Man, Delacroix, Velazquez, Homer, Michelangelo, Herman Melville, Sherrie Levine, Susan Rothenberg, and Goya, among others.

The drawing depicts a social gathering that uses the banquet table as a central motif. Epic in scale and metaphorical content, *City of Tells* demonstrates Drake's skill and talent as a master draftsman. Leonardo da Vinci said that the artist's greatest challenge is to capture a person's *moti mentali* (motions of the mind). Drake meets this challenge through his swift charcoal lines

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defining various expressions, perspectives, and movement in *City of Tells*.

The video installation poetically documents the spontaneous actions elicited by a herd of hungry swine, a hummingbird, and a python when confronted with an elegantly set banquet table. The soundtrack to the video is by renowned French composer Pascal Dusapin, recipient of the Victoire de la Musique, the French Music Academy Award for the composer of year.

The other two large-scale drawings (9' 6" x 15 feet)—*City of Tells, with Signs Following* and *City of Tells, Joy, Folly, Torment*—reference animals in the video whose instincts of primal survival act as a metaphor for the unexpected chaos encountered daily in contemporary life.

Born in Lubbock, Texas, James Drake lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He holds a BFA and an MFA degree from the Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles, and he has exhibited extensively throughout the United States including one-person exhibitions at Diverseworks Artspace, Houston, TX; El Paso Museum of Art, TX; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; La Jolla Museum of Art, CA; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX; and the Alternative Museum, New York. His work was included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial and is represented in numerous important public and private collections. Drake is the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts grants.

On view concurrent with this exhibition are *Uta Barth: nowhere near, ...and of time, white blind (bright red)*, 1999-2002; *Quantizing Effects: The Liminal Art of Jim Campbell*; and *Kiki Seror: Ms. Survey*.

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico. **SITE Santa Fe Winter Hours:** Wed–Sat, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM. Museum admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students, teachers and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public with paid admission and are also regularly scheduled on Fridays at 6 pm, and Saturdays & Sundays at 2 pm. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information.

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