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*a contemporary art space*

*tenth anniversary 1995-2005*

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**SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS PAUL SARKISIAN**

**May 28-August 28, 2005**

Santa Fe, NM — SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present the work of Paul Sarkisian in an exhibition which will fill the entire museum from May 28-August 28, 2005. There will be a media preview with the artist on Thursday, May 26, from 11 am-12 noon. There will be a free public preview on **Friday, May 27, from 5-7 pm.**

Paul Sarkisian has worked in numerous styles and media throughout his long career as a painter. This exhibition will be a survey of the last ten years and feature more than twenty large-scale and monumental pieces, as well as one of the artist's well-known storefront paintings. This historical work is an immense, wall-sized painting called *Untitled (El Paso)* (1971-72). This monochromatic façade of an existing structure the artist encountered during his travels across the United States offers a meticulous rendering of the architecture of the building. Yet the artist has added exquisite details, recollected from memory and culled from his imagination, of objects and reflections seen in the interiors.

From this captivating example of his prowess in the photo-realist style, Sarkisian moved through several stylistic changes in his painting to arrive at the extreme opposite—a post-minimalist approach to his more recent work of the last decade. While still working in a monumental scale, he has been using polymer resin and automotive enamel on wood panels, which, when mounted together on the wall, produce giant, lustrously-colored objects where nuance of surface, texture, shape, and color is paramount.

Guest-curated by Louis Grachos, director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, this exhibition will be the first museum presentation of this significant body of work, and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with an introduction by Grachos and an essay by Christopher Cordes.

Paul Sarkisian, who has lived and worked in the Santa Fe area since 1972, was born in Chicago in 1928 and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, and MexicoCity College. His extensive listing of solo exhibitions include the ARCO Center for the Visual Arts, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Houston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara; and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. His work has been included in many important group exhibitions world wide

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which include Walter Hopps' Syndell Studios, Los Angeles; the *Merry-Go-Round* show at the Ferus Gallery, Los Angeles; *Documenta V*, Kassel, Germany; the *Whitney Annual*, New York City; *Sharp Focus*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York; *Radical Realism*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; *Painting in the Age of Photography*, Kunsthaus, Zurich; and *Illusions of Reality*, Australia National Gallery, Canberra. His work is in numerous public collections which include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Pasadena Art Museum; the Minneapolis Museum of Art, and the Aachen Museum in Germany.

Funding for the exhibition is made possible in part by Dottie and Dick Barrett, Pat Hall, Barbara and Michael Ogg, and Joann and Gifford Phillips.

**Art & Culture**

On **Tuesday, July 12, 2005, at 6 pm**, SITE will present ***When Nouns Become Verbs***, **Chris Cordes and Juliet Myers: A Dialogue on the Work of Paul Sarkisian**. Cordes is the author of the essay on Sarkisian for the forthcoming catalogue, and Juliet Myers is SITE's Director of Education and Public Programs. Tickets are adults \$6; \$3 for students, seniors, and SITE Santa Fe members at Friend and Family levels. Free with advance reservation for SITE Santa Fe members at the Supporter level and above. Seating is limited, advance purchase is recommended. 505.989.1199 or [www.sitesantsfe.org](http://www.sitesantsfe.org).

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico. **SITE Santa Fe 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.

This project is made possible by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This announcement is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

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**VISUALS AVAILABLE**

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