



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS HANS SCHABUS: DESERTED CONQUEST**  
**A MUSEUM-WIDE INSTALLATION**

June 23 – September 16, 2007  
Public Opening: Friday, June 22, 5-7 pm



Hans Schabus  
Stills from *East, West, South, North*, 2007  
Three screen HD video installation with sound, 6 min. 58 sec.  
SITE Santa Fe Commission  
Courtesy of the artist and Engholm Engelhorn Gallery, Vienna

Santa Fe, NM—SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present the work of Austrian artist Hans Schabus in his first museum exhibition in the U.S. from June 23 to September 16, 2007. There will be a media preview of the exhibition with the artist on **Thursday, June 21, from 11 am-12 noon.** The free public opening is **Friday, June 22, from 5-7 pm.** Following the opening, there will be an **After-Party from 7-10 pm** with **The Joe West Band** and refreshments by Second Street Brewery, cash bar; 21 and over.

Renowned for disrupting and reconfiguring space in unexpected ways, Hans Schabus has produced site-specific installations that rely upon the physical and psychological effects of spatial displacement to demythologize cultural symbols. For his first solo museum exhibition in the United States, Schabus will realize *Deserted Conquest* – a new 15,000 sq. ft. installation commissioned by SITE Santa Fe. In this multifaceted exhibition, which consists of two new videos, sculptures, drawings, and a variety of found objects, Schabus takes the New Mexico landscape as his subject matter and uses it to create a series of confrontations (artificial vs.

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natural; permanence vs. mobility) that tackle the conceptual underpinnings of our cultural romanticism of the desert landscape and idealizations of “the West.” Grounded in mapping and geography, Schabus will transform SITE’s interior, in effect creating a new topographical representation of the West. The installation will include a dismantled, then partially reconstructed mobile home, and more than 200 tons of soil will be deposited in SITE’s galleries. Viewers will be encouraged to freely navigate the terrain, their pathways slowly transforming the space over time.

A central component of Schabus’s installation at SITE is *East, West, South, North* (2007), a new, high-definition (HD) video that the artist shot on location in Yeso, NM. The town, which is now classified a “ghost town,” was named after the Spanish word for gypsum that lies in abundance in Eastern New Mexico. Yeso was established in 1906, when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway came to the area, and it became a trading center for cattle and sheep ranchers, and a few farmers in the area. Over time, commerce and industry in the town dwindled and the farmers, despite their best efforts, conceded that the land proved inhospitable to most agricultural endeavors. In the mid-1950s, the train ceased to stop in Yeso, which caused the mass exodus of over 400 citizens from the town within a few years. Today, Yeso claims only a handful of residents; yet the freight trains that are operated by BNSF (Burlington Northern & Santa Fe) – one of the largest transporters of coal, consumer, agricultural, and industrial products in the United States – continue to barrel through the town every half hour or so. The continued presence of the train stands in stark contrast to what little life remains in Yeso.

A second video, entitled *In Search of The Endless Column (Santa Fe Trail)*, 2007 (HD video, 20 hours, 29 minutes, and 46 seconds), captures the artist’s recent road trip following the original Santa Fe Trail from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe.

Schabus was selected to represent Austria in the 2005 Venice Biennale with his mountainous installation *Das letzte Land (The Last Land)* that engulfed Josef Hoffmann’s modernist-inspired Austrian Pavilion. Schabus has also had solo exhibitions at the Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel, Germany (2006); espace d’arts contemporains, Geneva (2006); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria (2004); the Secession, Vienna, Austria (2003 and 1996); and the Kunstverein Bonn, Germany (2003). His work has been included in group exhibitions at MuMok, Museum of Modern Art, Vienna; Art Metropole, Toronto; the Liverpool Biennial; the Turin Triennial; and Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA. He is currently represented by Engholm Engelhorn Gallery, Vienna.

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Schabus was born in Watschig, Austria in 1970; he lives and works in Vienna.

### **Art & Culture**

SITE is pleased to present a series of Art & Culture programs in conjunction with the Hans Schabus exhibition. On **Tuesday, June 26, at 6 pm**, Laura Heon, SITE's director/chief curator, will present a lecture on Schabus's work. Other special events and musical programs will be scheduled to further interpret and illuminate the artist's examination of the mythology of the "Old West." On **Saturday, June 30**, SITE will host a "Wild West Film Fest" featuring screenings of *The Wild Bunch* (d. Sam Peckinpah, 1969) at **11 am**, and *The Searchers* (d. John Ford, 1956) at **2 pm**. Schabus's short video *Western* (2002) will be screened prior to each feature. Films are free with museum admission. At **8 pm**, SITE will screen *Forty Guns* (d. Samuel Fuller, 1957) at Center for Contemporary Arts Cinematheque. On **Friday, August 17, 5–7 pm**, Bill Hearne, one of the greatest flatpickers ever, and his *Roadhouse Revue*, will deliver retro country/honky-tonk classics in a free concert at SITE Santa Fe.

### **Catalogue**

SITE will publish a catalogue, *Hans Schabus: Deserted Conquest*, to accompany the exhibition, featuring essays by Laura Heon and others. The hard bound, full color catalogue will feature installation photographs of the exhibition, as well as art historical texts, and historical photographs.

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Hours: Wed–Sat, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., of 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 exhibition is made possible in part with the support of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York and Engholm Engelhorn Gallery, Vienna, as well as 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. [www.sitesantafe.org](http://www.sitesantafe.org)

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