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**NEW MEXICO ARTS COMMISSION PROJECT BY KAREN YANK TO BE
INSTALLED AT EXPO NEW MEXICO ON JULY 19, 2010**

SANTA FE - New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, announces the installation of Karen Yank's untitled, Cor-ten steel, sculpture at EXPO New Mexico on Monday, July 19, 2010, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The selection committee at EXPO New Mexico sought a freestanding exterior contemporary artwork.

Professional artists that reside in New Mexico, use innovative concepts and materials, and experienced in creating public funded commission projects were invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity. The new sculpture will be placed in front of the Fine Arts Building, adjacent to the entrance. Karen Yank used Cor-ten steel because of its strength, durability, and easy maintenance. The total project budget for EXPO New Mexico was \$55,270.

Karen Yank has worked on many public art sculptures in New Mexico and recently served as the artist on the design team for the GRIP Interstate I40/Coors project. Yank's work is located throughout the state in permanent public collections including New Mexico State Library Records and Archives in Santa Fe, New Mexico State University in Alamogordo, and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, among others. Her work is also part museum and private collections including New Mexico Museum of Art, Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, and New Mexico Capitol Art Foundation. Yank has Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from University of Wisconsin and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Rutgers University.

Art in Public Places Commissions

New Mexico Arts commissions artworks with agencies that have 1% for public arts budgets in excess of \$40,000. Commissioned artists create unique large-scale projects of site-specific artwork that are often integrated directly into the architecture of the building. A local selection committee, comprised of members of the local community, and artists,

works with New Mexico Arts to create the concept for a commission project and to select the artwork from all submitted proposals. All artwork acquired through the Art in Public Places program *must* be displayed in areas accessible to the public at all times and must comply with ADA guidelines.

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New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the state arts agency. New Mexico Arts administers the state's One Percent for Public Art program, awards grants to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programs in their communities across the state, and provides technical assistance and educational opportunities for organizations, artists, and arts educators throughout New Mexico.