FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • October 8, 2013
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SUDARIOS ("SHROUDS") SHOWING IN SANTA FE, NM

Colombian visual artist, Erika Diettes, will be showcasing her internationally-recognized work, Sudarios, in Santa Fe, NM for one week only, October 18 - October 24, 2013. The public is invited to attend the opening on Friday, October 18 from 5 - 8:30pm at the IHM Retreat Center Chapel, 50 Mt Carmel Rd, Santa Fe, NM. Diettes will present an artist talk at 7:30pm.

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT
Sudarios is a wrenching series of portraits of witnesses to massacres committed during the Colombian armed conflict. This is the first time Sudarios is appearing in New Mexico. Printed on silk, these portraits have been exhibited in churches all over the world, including churches in Colombia, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, and Houston. This work tells the stories of twenty grief-stricken victims who, as part of their torture, were forced to watch unspeakable violence perpetrated against their loved ones and were left alive as witnesses. Sudarios is a portrait of the irreparable harm which violence leaves in humanity.

From the artist: “Art not only fulfills a very important role in conserving the memory of a country but also opens up a space which eases the processes of mourning. These portraits are on silk because I wanted to convey, as the victims shared, that they are beings who no longer belong to the world because violence had left them dead in life.

The same reason explains that these images should be kept in sacred places and spaces of reflection, where regardless of our religion, the work in that space will help us to be more than spectators and can transform us into pilgrims communing with the work.”

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY
Erika Diettes is in the U.S. as part of the inaugural CENTER Artist Labs, an artists-in-residence program made possible, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Works Project, Arts Grant.
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Art Works Grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. CENTER’s unique residency program is dedicated to providing support for artists to experiment with new ways of engaging audiences. It includes weekly meetings with a team of advisors comprised of a museum curator, editor, social practice artist, a design team and others who advise the four artists-in-residence in the critical final stages of their projects and help develop innovative outreach strategies.

Following the exhibition, Diettes, along with the other three artists-in-residence, will each discuss their work during a presentation and panel discussion with the advisors on October 23, 2013 at 6:30pm at the IHM Retreat Center, 50 Mt Carmel Rd. This event is free and open to the public.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
Erika Diettes lives and works in Bogotá, Colombia, exploring issues of memory, pain, absence and death. The photographs have been exhibited in unique spaces linked to re-memoration processes developed by the victims’ movements in Colombia. Erika received a Master’s degree in Social Anthropology from the Universidad de los Andes and has authored several essays on artistic representation in times of war that have been included in books, newspapers and journals. Her work is part of the permanent collection of major museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and has been exhibited at the Museums of Modern Art of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín and Barranquilla; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santiago de Chile; the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and many more. The work Sudarios was included in the Fotofest Biennial, the Festival de la Luz in Buenos Aires, and the Ballarat Foto Biennale in Australia, among others.

ABOUT CENTER
CENTER is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1994, that honors, supports and provides opportunity to gifted and committed photographers. The programs offered by CENTER bring photographic excellence to a broad, international audience. For more information about CENTER and the awards please go to VisitCenter.org.

For artist statements, interviews, and high-resolution images, please contact lpressley@visitcenter.org