

2007 STUDENT ILLUSTRATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

New York – June 4, 2007 – SAFE/Saving Antiquities for Everyone today announced the winners of the 2007 Student Illustration and Photography Competition. Students from around the world were encouraged to enter and lend their talents in creating compelling graphic images that help raise awareness of the looting, smuggling and trading of illicit antiquities. The response to the competition was enthusiastic and entries arrived from many diverse countries such as: South Africa, Peru, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, as well as the United States. The prize-winning artwork will be used in SAFE's public awareness campaigns.

Nicola Kountoupes, the first place winner and recipient of a \$250 award, is a graduate student in the Masters of Fine Arts program in Imaging Arts at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. "My work is concerned with an awareness of the passage of time, the beauty of loss and a desire to understand the past," she says. "In exploring this desire, I use the archaeological site as a symbol of the past that we wish to reveal through excavation." Yet rather than photograph existing sites, Nicola created her own "simulated archaeological sites." Nicola meticulously hand printed ink onto large pieces of filo dough and left the work exposed to the affects of weather. "As the work deteriorates, I photograph it until it is gone." The resulting images "address the nature of memory, loss, and how we value objects that are triggers to our mortality and sense of history."

Laura de la Torre, the second place winner, is an art student at the Art Institute of Washington pursuing an Associate's degree. She has also previously attended New York University where she completed a Bachelor's degree. Laura has been following the illegal antiquities trade for some time and was excited by the prospect of using her current interest in computer illustration to help raise awareness. Laura's illustration connects the image of a looted site with a bleak, dystopian future. She says, "in the future we may be technologically advanced, but, without an appreciation for past civilizations, what will our future civilization be like?"

The third place award went to **Tri Hapsor Guno**, a medical student at Padjadjaran University School of Medicine in Bandung City, Indonesia. Initially, Tri was motivated by a desire to show his parents that he had artistic talent. Yet as he worked on his entry, a more compelling inspiration came to the fore: his personal experience and knowledge of the pervasive nature of the illegal antiquities market in his native Indonesia. Using a photograph that Tri took of a Buddha statue from the Candi of Borobudur in central Java, Indonesia, he depicted a scene in which several people attempt to stop the statue from being stolen. Tri wishes that, "through this picture, I hope we can unify our voices into one call to stop the looting, smuggling, and trading in antiquities."

"We believe that the winning entries will go a long way towards achieving our mission. We are grateful to the judges and all the students and who entered the competition," said SAFE President Cindy Ho.

The winners were chosen by judges **Pietro Consavari** of Consavari & Associati, a design studio in Venice; **Tom Dahill**, a Boston based painter and illustrator; **Neil Levy**, who works at the advertising firm BBDO in San Francisco and has had work featured in the International Advertising Festival at Cannes and the Clio's; **Jeff Marcus**, the Principal of Marcus Associates, a San Francisco identity and design consultancy; **John McDermott**, a photographer whose clients include Eastman Kodak, FIFA, Sports Illustrated, IBM, and others; and **Glynnis Osher**, an art director whose work has been included in many high profile product launches; she currently runs her own company and lives in Vancouver BC, Canada.

About SAFE

SAFE/Saving Antiquities for Everyone, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, creates educational programs and media campaigns to raise public awareness regarding the importance of preserving cultural heritage worldwide. SAFE is a coalition of professionals in communications, media, and advertising working alongside experts in the academic, legal and law enforcement communities. SAFE has no political affiliations.