Maureen Burdock | Marta & the Missing
@ the spector ripps project space

November 1 - 24, 2007    Opening Reception: Saturday, November 17, 4-6PM
spector ripps project space at CCA, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM, 87505
Contact: Cyndi Conn, 505 982 1338 x 14, Cyndi@ccasantafe.org

For over a decade, women and girls have been disappearing from Ciudad Juárez. The body count is in the hundreds. Nobody knows who the murderers are, though it seems certain that there are numerous perpetrators. Young women's bodies are found dumped in the desert, in fields, along roadsides, in the garbage. Maureen Burdock tells the story in painting and graphic-novella drawings, hoping to make a difference in public perception resulting so that this violence might end.

This exhibition includes painted portraits as well as graphic drawings. The portraits depict some of the victims, their images taken from small snapshots posted on the Internet—the women and girls before they became victims. Intimate and upbeat, these paintings act as cherished memories of the missing. Burdock's drawings tell the story of Marta and her sidekick Pepito, a dog with a strong sense of ethics and humor. Marta herself is a young woman superhero, visited by the ghosts of the disappeared and led by them to where violence is about to occur. Marta learns that by standing together with the victims and their families, communally they can end this nightmare. These paintings and drawings were exhibited together at the MECENAS Gallery in Juárez in March of 2007.

Maureen Burdock was born in Germany and spent the first years of her life in Europe during the cold war era of the 1970s. Her father was a foreign-language correspondent from West Germany, her mother a foreign-language teacher whose family fled the Russian occupation of Eastern Germany in the 1940s. Burdock has always been a prolific artist, constructing large-scale multimedia exhibitions about themes of war and its effects on civilian populations. She has won awards for her surrealist work and had numerous solo exhibitions both nationally and internationally.

The spector ripps projects space, newly named after a generous contribution by Steven Spector and Robert Ripps, emphasizes CCA's devotion to the creation, presentation, interpretation and dissemination of the work of innovative artists in all media, fostering creativity and uninhibited exploration within the community. Located in CCA's current Lobby Gallery, the exhibitions will be three weeks in duration and provide extra exhibition space while work on the new annex—the Rumsey Mezzanine Gallery—continues. Regional artists and curators are encouraged to submit proposals for exhibitions and installations to Cyndi Conn at cyndi@ccasantafe.org, or call 982-1338 ext.14 for more information.

The Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA) is a community-based nonprofit arts organization presenting exemplary programming in visual arts, language arts, performing arts, cinema and arts education for youth and adults. Dedicated to exposing multi- and interdisciplinary contemporary art, CCA provides emerging and established artists with opportunities to explore new ideas and take creative risks. CCA’s Cinematheque is the community’s #1 venue for alternative film, and is the home to numerous film series and festivals, including The African Effect and Native Cinema Showcase. The newly opened Digital Media Lab provides access to, and use of, media technology to improve media literacy and to support the professional development of media artists in our region. Serving more than 70,000 visitors annually, CCA has introduced the arts of our time as a vital element in the region's cultural dialogue for nearly 30 years.