



**American Federation of Arts**

**For Immediate Release**

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**AFA'S ArtTalks FEATURES INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARTIST  
JANINE ANTONI TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2003 AT AFA**

New York, NY (April 15, 2003) – Internationally recognized artist **Janine Antoni**, whose brilliantly poetic and provocative work has garnered increasing attention over the last few years, will discuss her art and artistic process at **ArtTalks**, the third lecture in this inaugural public series presented by the American Federation of Arts (AFA). ArtTalks will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. at the AFA, 41 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, between Madison and Park Avenues, in New York, and will include both a discussion and reception following Ms. Antoni's talk. Admission is \$15 and \$10 for AFA members and students with valid identification. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For public reservations, please call 212-988-7700 ext. 41. For press reservations please call 212-988-7700 ext. 64. ArtTalks is made possible by The Donald M. Cox New Initiative Fund.

Janine Antoni enjoys an impressive international reputation. As one of the youngest recipients of the MacArthur Fellowship in 1998, her work has received exuberant acclaim both in this country and abroad. The process of creating work and the artist's own body are at the center of her oeuvre, which incorporates inventive uses of sculpture and ritual. Her artistic language is rich and delicately nuanced, often making humorous and thoughtprovoking references to art history, ideas of feminine beauty, and fetishistic behavior. Antoni has contributed greatly to the field of performance art, while at the same time producing art objects that have a powerful, enigmatic, and sustaining quality. Her earlier work deals with obsession, consumerism, and beauty culture. (In her 1992 piece *Gnaw*, she cast two 600-pound cubes—one of chocolate and one of lard—chewed them and spit out the remaining pieces. The chewed chocolate was molded into heart-shaped candy trays and the lard used for 150 lipsticks). In recent years, she has increasingly explored themes of nurturing, feeding, and the sustenance provided by life's repetitive cycles. Her work continues to assume diverse forms, ranging from video, to sculpture, to editioned multiples, to the loom weave of her REM sleep patterns, to the distorted performance of a video ballet. Her inventiveness seems to have no end.

Janine Antoni was born in the Bahamas in 1964. She attended Sarah Lawrence College, in Bronxville, New York (B.A., 1986), and the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island (M.F.A., 1989). A recipient in 1998 of both, the MacArthur Fellowship and the Joan Mitchell Foundation, Inc., Painting and Sculpture Grant in 1998, she received the Larry Aldrich Foundation Award in 1999. Antoni has exhibited extensively in the United States and abroad at museums and galleries, among them, the Luhring Augustine Gallery, the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Reina Sofia, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Aldrich Museum. Her work was included in the 1993 Venice Biennial, the 1993 Whitney Biennial, the 1995 Johannesburg Biennial, the 1997 Istanbul Biennial, and the 2000 Kwangju Biennial in Korea.

For nearly one hundred years, the **American Federation of Arts** has originated and developed art exhibitions in partnership with museums in the United States and abroad. Under the leadership of director Julia Brown, the AFA serves the museum community via its exhibitions, publications, and education and professional development programs, including the Directors Forum, Curators Forum, and AFA ArtTalks. Current and upcoming AFA exhibitions include *The Sensuous and the Sacred: Chola Bronzes from South India*; *Degas and the Dance*; *Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from The British Museum*; and *Millet to Matisse: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century French Painting from Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow*. For additional information, visit the AFA's Web site at [www.afaweb.org](http://www.afaweb.org).