

From: National September 11 Memorial & Museum press@911memorial.org
Subject: First Major Special Exhibition to Open at 9/11 Memorial Museum
Date: July 14, 2016 at 10:01 AM
To: stoneloft@aol.com

9/11 MEMORIAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 14, 2016

FIRST MAJOR SPECIAL EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM

'Rendering the Unthinkable' Exhibition Showing How Artists Responded to 9/11 Opens September 12

(New York) July 14, 2016 – The National September 11 Memorial & Museum announced today the September opening of its first major special exhibition titled “Rendering the Unthinkable: Artists Respond to 9/11.” Ranging in media from paintings and sculpture to works on paper and video, the exhibition examines 13 artists’ reactions to the terror attacks and how they relied on their craft to understand an incomprehensible act causing terror, destruction and the deaths of nearly 3,000 people.

As one component of the 9/11 Memorial’s commemoration of the 15th anniversary of 9/11, “Rendering the Unthinkable” publicly opens Sept. 12. It is the first presentation designed for the Museum’s special exhibition gallery, where future exhibitions will explore a range of topics related to the ever-evolving history of 9/11 and its aftermath. These pieces, which were not newly commissioned for the exhibition, will be displayed together for the first time in the Museum.

“‘Rendering the Unthinkable’ shows the deep influence 9/11 had on all aspects of American culture and society,” 9/11 Memorial President Joe Daniels said. “Through artistic expression, these men and women have powerfully documented the immediate change the attacks brought into our world and how it affected all of us. Having these works of art exhibited together, in the very place the attacks happened, will provide visitors with another perspective about our human response to these attacks.”

“Through the lens of art, we reflect on the raw emotion we all felt on that unforgettable Tuesday morning 15 years ago,” said 9/11 Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald. “Artists, like all of us, struggled to comprehend the unfathomable destruction and loss of innocent life. They responded the way they knew best – through their art. Using their chosen media and particular styles, many fine artists created works that invite an encounter with an unfamiliar reality, asking not so much that we revisit the horrors of that day but that we try to make sense of what was left in its wake.”

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These artists have created moving documentations of one of the most important moments in world history that continues to shape our culture and society after nearly 15 years," 9/11 Memorial Board Member and former Metropolitan Museum of Art president, Emily K. Rafferty said. "This exhibition also marks the opening of the special exhibition gallery, where future exhibitions will continue to explore various topics related to 9/11 for years to come."

The exhibition includes works by 13 New York City-based artists deeply affected by 9/11. One artist lost his brother, a firefighter, in the terror strikes, some lost friends and many personally witnessed the attacks. The exhibition is not intended as an encyclopedic survey of 9/11-related works of art. Rather, it showcases the responses of a small group of individuals whose artistic preoccupations in response to 9/11 offer complementary explorations of common themes and whose presentation now offers an opportunity to look back to that moment 15 years ago when the unthinkable became real.

For more information about the exhibition please visit 911memorial.org.

[High-resolution images, video samples and descriptions of the artworks are available for download for press purposes here.](#)

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the nonprofit organization that oversees operations for the 9/11 Memorial and 9/11 Memorial Museum. Located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site, the Memorial and Museum remember and honor the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The Memorial plaza design consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers surrounded by white oak trees. The Museum displays more than 10,000 personal and monumental objects linked to the events of 9/11, while presenting intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery that are central to telling the story of the attacks and aftermath. It also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance through education programs, public programs, live talks and film features that cover contemporary topics for diverse audiences. For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, please visit 911memorial.org.

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