The Art of 9/11
September 7 - October 15, 2005
Organized by Arthur C. Danto

Artists: Audrey Flack, Leslie King-Hammond, Jeffrey Lohn, Mary Miss, Lucio Pozzi, Ursula Von Rydingsvard, Cindy Sherman, Barbara Westman, Robert Rahway Zakanitch

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Wed, Sept 7, 6 - 8 pm: Opening reception
Wed, Sept 21, 6:30 pm: Curator talk

I learned two truths from the attacks of 9/11, both of which I would be glad never to have come to know. One was that everyone is capable of heroism, and, correlativey, that the moral aftereffect of tragedy is a mutual commiseration among survivors. The other was that even non-artists respond to tragedy with art. Among the many unforgettable experiences of the early aftermath of the attacks was the unprompted appearance of little shrines in fronts of doors, on windowsills, and in public spaces everywhere. By nightfall, New York was a complex of vernacular altars. The artists in this show share something with the anonymous shrine-makers who found ways of expressing the common mood and feeling of those days, in ways that everyone instantly understood.

I am not a curator, but thought that the work made by these artists after 9/11 might make for an interesting philosophical exhibition. Such a show should itself be understood not as an ordinary art exhibition, but as what Wittgenstein calls an act of piety, and serve as an aspect of the question of what art is after all, and how it, just as Hegel had said, serves, together with religion and philosophy, as a moment in what he called Absolute Spirit.


For further info, please see www.apexart.org/exhibitions/danto.htm. Gallery hours are Tues - Sat, 11-6.