

apexart

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



Jeffrey Lohn, *Untitled*, 2001, photograph

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, correlatively, 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 for, and how it, just as Hegel had said, serves, together with religion and philosophy, as a moment in what he called Absolute Spirit.

Arthur C. Danto is Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Columbia University and art critic for *The Nation*. He has published several books on philosophical subjects and collections of art criticism, including *Encounters and Reflections: Art in the Historical Present*, *Beyond the Brillo Box: The Visual Arts in Post-Historical Perspective*, *The Madonna of the Future: Essays in a Pluralistic Art World*, and *The Transfiguration of the Commonplace*.

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

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