

## 'The Art of 9/11'

### Apexart

Arthur C. Danto, the eminent philosopher and art critic for the *Nation*, has turned his hand to curating, while claiming—with becoming modesty—that he is not a curator. He took as his theme the subject of 9/11 and managed to not trivialize it with hyperbole.

Wittgenstein stated that art can be “understandable as an act of piety,” and Danto used the quote to underpin this exhibition of nine artists who responded to the attacks of September 11, 2001, in ways that were both head-on and oblique. The works were often understated. Mary Miss submitted a proposal for the perimeter wall of Ground Zero in which a blue fence, flowers, and an infinity symbol each plays a part in demarcating and stitching the wound. Jeffrey Lohn took photos of the many, progressively deteriorating images depicting the missing that appeared throughout the city, preserving the individuals they represent from a second vanishing. Leslie King-Hammond constructed an elaborate West Indian-derived shrine that recalled all the spontaneous altars that sprang up after the tragedy. Barbara Westman did a childlike cut-paper drawing of the blue memorial lights reaching straight upward, like a ladder to heaven.

Lucio Pozzi was both direct and indirect, recording the cloudlike drift of smoky debris from the collapse of the twin towers in a series of digital images and copying one of his old watercolors—a symbolic act, perhaps intended to turn back the clock. Ursula von Rydingsvard's wood carving resembled a section of lace, and Robert Zakanitch



Leslie King-Hammond, *Prayer for the New Ancestors: Altar for the Warrior Spirits of 9/11, 2001*, mixed-media installation. Apexart.

Painted a pattern of white lace, the interweaving attesting to the connections to one another we all felt at the time. Audrey Flack painted fishing boats as an escape, and Cindy Sherman contributed a sad but colorful clown. Accompanied by thoughtful statements by each artist, the show reminded us once again—on the fourth anniversary—of the cataclysmic day that both tore our world apart and bound us together in besieged, common humanity.

—Lilly Wei