

ORGANIZATION

Mission

We seek to advance a new sense of responsibility toward and between world communities that experience adversity and violence by collecting photography from all, amateur or professional, who wish to donate their work. **here is new york** shares and networks these images, unedited, believing that in a democracy of photographs there is healing and wisdom.

here is new york: a democracy of photographs is a permanent charitable 501(c)(3) corporation registered in the State of New York in 2001.

Founders

Alice Rose George — Independent photography editor and picture agent

Gilles Peress — International photographer and member of Magnum

Michael Shulan — Writer

Charles Traub — Photographer and Chair, Graduate Photography Program, School of Visual Arts

Affiliations and Supporters

Andy Warhol Foundation (Support)
Children's Aid Society
Cybersource (Support)
Horace Goldsmith Foundation (Support)
International Center for Photography
Museum of Modern Art
Panasonic
School of Visual Arts
Viewpoint (Support)

Accounting and Legal Services

Davis & Grutman, LLP
Jarvis W. Irving & Co., LLP
The Law Firm of Rosalind Lichter
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

BACKGROUND

Neither of us had ever quite envisioned photographs being used in this particular way, not just as images of witness, but as a means of grieving and resolution.

We are very happy to be able to contribute to the show.

Alex Webb and Rebecca Norris Webb, Magnum photographers

There are more than 7000 photographs in the September 11th collection, **here is new york: a democracy of photographs**. It began with a unique exhibition and sale of photographs in a SoHo storefront at 116 Prince Street, New York, NY, on September 28th, 2001.

It was called *a democracy of photographs* because anyone and everyone who had taken pictures relating to 9/11 brought or e-mailed them to the gallery, where they were digitally scanned, archivally printed and displayed. They were taken with every conceivable photographic apparatus, from Leicas and digital Nikons to pinhole cameras and little plastic gizmos that schoolchildren wear on their wrist.

What these tools and talents have produced, however, is pure — grief, shock, courage, from amateurs as well as professionals. Exhibited anonymously, without frames, they say that to make sense of such events we are compelled to break them down ... that 1,000 pictures from 1,000 vantage points tell a story no headline could capture.

- **here is new york** has become a place (physical and virtual) for people to participate in international dialogue through the sharing of images that are actively sought and engaged in by millions of people.
- The **here is new york** experience suggests that there is wisdom in a collective vision—a democracy of images. It offers perspective from many witnesses, not edited *for us* by news organizations, but *by us* from an open lens of shared experience.
- **here is new york** is a profound demonstration of our new interconnectivity with digital-age tools to collect and classify, reproduce and share expression... in volume, in the moment, from giant Astrovision™ video screen in Times Square to tiny jpegs on the World Wide Web...anywhere!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This is one of the most moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

President William Jefferson Clinton

Chicago is honored to be the first city outside of New York to host the "here is new york" Exhibition.

Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago

We're all part of this exhibition.

Wesley Snipes

Exhibitions

The exhibits have expanded from three sites in New York City to shows in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Daytona. For the balance of this year, exhibits are scheduled for the 9/11 anniversary in Washington, D.C., at the Corcoran Gallery, and the Rotunda, in Arles, France; in Berlin, Dresden and Stuttgart, Germany; São Paulo, Brazil; in London and in Tokyo. Requests are received daily to exhibit in cities throughout the world.

Philanthropy

All pictures are unidentified whether they were from top professionals, artists, a fireman or school kids. They are sold at a nominal price (\$25), regardless of their provenance to support the WTC Fund of the Children's Aid Society. To date, more than 50,000 images have been sold in New York, contributing more than \$600,000 to the Children's Aid Society; in Las Vegas another \$5,000 has gone to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Web-site

The accompanying website www.hereisnewyork.org has become one of the country's most visited sites, a "community"—in the cyber sense—of people affected, concerned, searching for truths, facts and friends with more than 1.3 million unique visitors.

The site holds 5000 images in its database and utilizes Microsoft's ".net" architecture. The Viewpoint Corporation has donated Zoomview technology, allowing visitors to zoom in to the most minute detail of an image. It is e-commerce enabled; visitors from anywhere in the world may purchase images. The backend management system allows the site's managers to search and manage categories, process payments, and even upload and sell from remote locations.

Publications

here is new york: a democracy of photographs

Hardcover with dust jacket

864 pages, 720 color and 160 duotones

U.S.\$ 49.95

Publisher: Scalo: Zurich - Berlin - New York

Publication date: September 2002

The book will be the most comprehensive and authentic documentation of what occurred in New York City on September 11, 2001. It will bear witness to what seemed unimaginable, memorialize those who perished and the rescue workers who served so heroically. Most of all, the book will be a testimony — of people speaking directly to each other — of fears, emotions and desire for community. This testimony distinguishes **here is new york** from any and all other books about the event. A significant percentage of the net proceeds will also be donated to appropriate charities.

Physical

- 7,000 photographs in exhibition
- More than 2,500 amateur and professional photographers represented
- More than 600,000 visitors to the Prince St. gallery
- 533,800,000 consumer impressions during one-month show (March/April) at the Chicago Cultural Center; 110,000 distinct visitors.
- More than 50,000 photographs have been printed in six months
- More than 250 volunteers involved in the organization
- 21,300 images displayed at eight exhibits in five cities in eight months

Sept 18-TFN	116 Prince Street, New York, NY
Nov. 10–Dec. 8, 2002	Track 16 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
Nov. 18–Dec. 21, 2001	University of California, Berkley, CA
Feb. 1–March 30, 2002	Chicago Dept of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, IL
Feb. 12–June 1, 2002	International Center of Photography, New York, NY
Feb. 22–May 19, 2002	Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona, FL
Feb. 28–May 21, 2002	Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
May 2–May 9, 2002	National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Las Vegas, NV
July 4–Aug. 18, 2002	Arles, France;
July 6–Oct. 7, 2002	Berlin, Germany
Sept.–Oct., 2002	Dresden, Duesseldorf, Stuttgart, Germany
Sept. 11–Nov, 2002	The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
<i>In development:</i>	
Sept., 2002	Tokyo, Japan; São Paulo, Brazil; Moscow
Sept., 2002	San Diego; Louisville; Tampa; Los Angeles

Virtual—www.hereisnewyork.org

- 250,000,000 hits in six months
- 1,350,000 unique visitors
- 5000 images on the site for viewing, selection and purchase
- One-hour average per-site visitor.
- More than 5,000 e-mail letters received

FUTURE

I am contacting you to let you know what an unbelievable feat you have pulled together for all the world to see, and remember. I live in Memphis and watched the TV just like everyone else that day. I've seen the images, newspaper and television and magazine, but the assembly of photos from the pro to the amateur (on your site) is utterly heart-wrenching. One day I hope your gallery will consider being part of the various tours being conducted throughout the USA. I will be first in line to view them. Janette Richards, Memphis, TN

September 11 Memorials

We are seeking foundation and corporate support for the inclusion of our work in New York City's September 11, 2002 ,dedication and renewal event(s). This support can include any of the following opportunities:

We want to assemble a new collection of photographic and video images that speaks to how we have overcome the events of that terrible time. As the first anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy approaches, we are asking all who submitted images in our collection to send us a new image. For some it might be a current view of where they are now and how they have changed; for others it might be a reflection of new life and new friendships that have resulted from that moment in their lives; and for others it might be a more personal reflection of how they have memorialized their losses of friends and families.

- We would like to share this exhibition, **here is new york**, with our fellow New Yorkers, in this city's memorial events with large-screen projections for public assemblies. *(We recently provided a public exhibition on the Astrovision video screen at Times Square and have agreement from Panasonic for use of a similar traveling device.)*
- We can add to this package a book of 800 photographs from our collection, for sale at New York City's memorial events:
 - Special printings of this book (already in production) can contain letters from the Mayor, the President, the United Nations Secretary General.
 - A limited edition of the book can accommodate acknowledgment for a sponsor(s).
 - Net proceeds from the sale of the book would contribute to sponsor's cause-related charitable donations or to the Children's Aid Society, WTC Fund.
- In conjunction with already planned exhibits in Washington, D.C., France, Germany, Brazil, England and Japan, we will take this new archive, including photography of the memorial itself and images of renewal, to other cities in America and around the world, providing additional opportunities to represent New York and our sponsoring organizations in a positive, regenerative light.

Beyond September 11th

We are seeking venture capital philanthropy to continue our work with other cities and organizations that can further contribute proceeds from donated work to charities benefiting children affected by tragic circumstances throughout the world.

The volume of audiences and contributors to our nearly spontaneous experiment is astounding. Both here in New York and around the globe, we have witnessed the growth of a new sense of community. This experience has uniquely focused both a mission and a means of realizing it.

It is our goal to enable others in diverse places to engage in similar activities. This effort entails further development of the website, which allows remote access to our full resources, continued collection and curation of new images, and expansion of a collaborative network.

Interactive Exhibitions

We are seeking corporate sponsorship to support exhibits and interactive sites. Sponsorship packages can include some of the following initiatives.

There are other stories and other cities and other people capable of contributing perspective in a democracy of pictures, ready to participate in a dialogue that images have the power to initiate, that technology affords the luxury of sharing.

These displays — in places as diverse as Paris or Berlin or Louisville — will help underscore to the entire world that through photography the most extreme challenge creates a dialogue that allows us all to focus the lessons of human experience, coexistence and transition.

- In preparation for the memorial events, we plan to organize exchange exhibitions with like-minded groups of citizens in other cities who share our interest in a democracy of photographs. These works can slowly replace the September 11th images at Lower Manhattan memorial sites, leading the way to renewal... for New Yorkers, for visitors.
- We plan to link these exhibition sites through videoconferencing so that those individuals who took the photograph — amateur and professional, young and old — can tell their own story of the humanity “behind the picture.”
- We are arranging for viewing of “history unframed” collections through electronic projections in numerous sites throughout the United States and abroad. Sites such as public libraries, art and cultural centers and museums could be loaned or given inexpensive screens, allowing large audiences to partake in this endeavor.
- Support large-screen projections for large public assemblies to include sites such as Times Square, Picadilly Circus, Red Square, Champs Elysee, Brandenburger Tor.

FUTURE

I worked in Tower One on the eighty-seventh floor. I escaped that day. You don't have any idea the feeling I felt when I saw my picture flash on the screen before my eyes. The closure that came over me was mystical as well as overwhelming. People always ask me what it was like. Now all I have to do is show them the picture. I am picture #1250 and I am the girl with the long hair on the right. The girl on the left is my good friend and coworker Dominique. It's only fair to please let the photographer know that at that moment when he or she snapped that picture all I kept thinking is that all my friends were dead. It's truly amazing how a picture could tell a thousand words. Thank you so much. God bless you.
Joanne (JoJo) Capestro, New York

Archives

We are seeking sponsors for archives at the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library, to name a few of the institutions that have expressed interest for their permanent collections.

The archives being assembled by [here is new york](#) will eventually include more than 10,000 images from Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania and New York, and other images of national and international importance. This is the definitive collection of pictorial information on the tragedy itself as well a testament to heros, survival and renewal.

It is important that this historically important collection be preserved for posterity and archived in the major institutions that have expressed interest in its safe-keeping. The underwriting of this archive will support professional preparation of both its information and color-match data and provide the underwriter permanent titling with the collection.

Additional to the collection of still images is a growing collection of video testimony from the photographers themselves as well as from the people represented in the photography.

