

Arts &
Events



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LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL'S VISUAL ARTISTS PROGRAM ONCE ON THE 92ND FLOOR OF WTC NOW NEARBY IN THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER

WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER COMMISSIONS ART FOR ITS PUBLIC SPACES; CREATES STUDIOS IN COMPLEX

Artists Announced at Press Conference Tuesday, May 28, 11:00 a.m.

NEW YORK, May 28 -- The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's *World Views*, displaced from the 92nd floor of One World Trade Center by the events of September 11, has found a new home in the World Financial Center. Today, the World Financial Center welcomed nine artists to studios in the Downtown complex.

New Views, as the current LMCC residency program is being called, provides studio space for nine visual artists to create site-specific art and a unique opportunity to display their finished works in for a limited period the World Financial Center complex this fall.

The nine artists, Jane Benson, Curtis Cuffie, Charles Goldman, Elke Lehmann, Andrea Ray, Anne Beffel, Pia Lindman, Brian P. McGrath and Alex Villar, selected for the three-month *New Views* residency, part of the Hudson River Festival (June 12 through August 30) were announced at a press conference and site tour Tuesday, May 28, at 11:00 a.m. at the World Financial Center, 200 Liberty Street. Their work covers a broad range of media, including video "paintings," digital art, commonplace objects, soundscapes, and architectural elements.

The *New Views* residency is a cooperative effort of the World Financial Center Arts and Events Program and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), which organized the artist residency programs on the 92nd floor of One World Trade Center, *World Views* and *Studioscape* in

space donated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

New Views artists will create artworks for the public spaces of the World Financial Center. At the press conference announcing their selection, representatives from the World Financial Center and the LMCC will take the nine artists on a tour to indicate which spaces are available for art and what limitations are on these spaces.

"The residencies that we currently envisage not only benefit artists by providing them with space, money and time to create new works within specific and relevant context," said Moukhtar Kocache, Director of Visual and Media Arts Initiatives for the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, "but also provide our community and the general public with the opportunity to respond to the political, psychic, spiritual, urban and civic realities that have emerged as a result of September 11."

"Bringing nine contemporary artists into the World Financial Center to create and exhibit new work continues our nearly 15-year tradition of creating a home for public art in the World Financial Center and throughout Battery Park City," said Debra Simon, artistic director of the World Financial Arts & Events Program.

The Artists in Residency at the WFC

Jane Benson's two- and three-dimensional works manipulate commonplace objects such as books, artificial trees, and photographs in order to upset behavioral conventions in public spaces. Her work has been exhibited in group shows in New York, Rome, and England and in solo exhibitions at The Chicago Project Room and at the Queens Museum of Art. A Fulbright scholar and recipient of a recent commission for the Buffalo Bayou ArtPark (Houston), Ms. Benson lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Born in Hartsville, South Carolina, **Curtis Cuffie** draws upon the tradition of rural southern yardshows, bottle-trees, and decorated graves. He has turned urban ephemera from the streets of the East Village into vibrant artworks. Since the late '90s, his works have been featured in venues such as TRIBES Gallery, Exit Art, and the 1997 Downtown Arts Festival. Mr. Cuffie has been profiled in print and broadcast media, including the 1995 NBC feature "Outsider Art."

Charles Goldman creates small- and large-scale projects in a variety of media to explore the reciprocal effects of memory and architecture. His work, which has been exhibited in the U.S., Canada and South America, is in the collections of The

Opportunities for the Public to Visit the Artists at their WFC Studios During Hudson River Festival

ARTISTS' RESIDENCY OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JULY 21, NOON TO 5:00 P.M.
WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER COURTYARD GALLERY

During this day-long open studio event, artists and visitors are informally brought together to explore the artists' creative process, materials and content. This residency culminates in an exhibition of site-specific works in the World Financial Center complex this fall.

ARTISTS' RESIDENCY BROWN BAG OPEN STUDIOS
MONDAY, JULY 22 & MONDAY, JULY 29, 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER COURTYARD GALLERY

The public can visit the studios of the nine artists in the World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery. The public can ask questions about process, materials and content or just hang out and browse.

Brooklyn Museum of Art and Microsoft Corporation. Mr. Goldman has lectured widely and has taught studio arts at many institutions. A recent project involved small recreations in clay of singular memories sold to the artist by random participants.

For the past decade, German-born artist **Elke Lehmann** has created site-specific installations and public interventions that respond to a physical space and its history. A project at Artists Space in New York led to a new series of architectural installations incorporating live animals and sounds, a concept developed further in subsequent installations. A lecturer in art and design, and the recipient of a fellowship from the Rema Hort Mann Foundation, Ms. Lehmann lives and works in New York.

Installation artist **Andrea Ray** uses sounds and architectural elements to explore the schism between modern architecture's vision of a healthy, efficient society and contemporary paranoia about public spaces. While exploring this disjuncture, the work is intended to offer comfort or respite, and has been exhibited internationally, as well as in New York at Cuchifritos and Apex Art. Ms. Ray resides in New York.

Anne Beffel creates interactive works sited in common institutional spaces such as public restrooms. By physically altering mundane objects and juxtaposing them with narratives gathered from the media, conversations, and documentary interviews, her work invites examination of social hierarchies and their effects on our daily activities. Ms. Beffel is an assistant professor at the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University.

Pia Lindman's current project is a series of video "paintings" that draw on the impressionist painting tradition. Synthesizing clips of footage from a fixed camera position, Lindman creates moving images that record changes of light and movement in space and time. A Fulbright scholar born in Finland, she has exhibited solo exhibitions and screenings in Paris, Tokyo, and Gothenburg, Sweden. Her awards include prizes from FRAME, the Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, and the Council for the Arts at MIT.

Brian McGrath views architectural drawing as an end in itself and has experimented with extending the graphic representations into the digital realm. His moving-image projections and interactive online projects merge physical and virtual environments. Currently, a senior faculty member at Parsons School of Design and adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University, Mr. McGrath has received grants and awards from the NEA, NYSCA, and Ars Electronica.

Brazilian-born artist **Alex Villar** focuses upon the social use of space. In photo and video work that is often humorous, he intervenes with his body in areas of unused or marginal urban space, reanimating anonymous public architecture and addressing the social and physical impact of design. The recipient of a Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant, Mr. Villar has exhibited work in Bialystok, Poland, Berlin, Germany, and New York.

World Financial Center Arts and Events Program

The World Financial Center Arts & Events Program is an innovative series of free performances, exhibitions, installations and festivals created to showcase emerging as well as established artists. While most of the performances take place in the Winter Garden, special summer events take place on the outdoor Plaza. Exhibitions and installations are housed in the Courtyard Gallery. All locations are public spaces.

Officially launched in October 1988, the program has featured over 1,500 performances by individual artists and cultural organizations. The program includes residencies created specifically for the public spaces at the World Financial Center, previews of works scheduled for New York City's major cultural venues; exhibitions and installations from major museums; and festivals celebrating the arts of individual cities and countries. By fostering all mediums of art, the program aims to draw attention to cultural institutions locally, nationally, and internationally. Click to the website, <www.worldfinancialcenter.com> for a current schedule of programs.

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

For thirty years, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's programs and leadership have established Downtown as a healthy business, residential and cultural district. LMCC's free performing and visual arts programs and services contribute to the livelihood of hundreds of artists and arts groups and add immeasurably to the cultural vitality of Downtown. LMCC administers Manhattan-wide community arts funds, leads workshops and holds public arts events, and creates innovative partnerships between business and the arts. Based in their headquarters in 5 World Trade Center until September 11, 2001, LMCC hosted artists in studios in the Twin Towers through *World Views* and *Studioscape*, and held free performances on an outdoor stage at the World Trade Center Plaza.

The Hudson River Festival is presented by the World Financial Center Arts & Events Program, Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority and the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy. Support provided by the New York Mercantile Exchange, the Alliance for Downtown New York and Embassy Suites Hotel New York City. The World Financial Center Arts & Events Program is sponsored by American Express, Merrill Lynch, Brookfield and Battery Park City Authority.

The Hudson River Festival is part of ***Downtown NYC River to River Festival 2002***, created by Lower Manhattan's corporations, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, performing and visual arts groups, museums and historic sites who have united to create the largest free arts festival in New York City history.

All Hudson River Festival events are free! For more information, call (212) 528-2733 or visit www.hudsonriverfestival.com.