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MEDIA CONTACTS:
DEENA JURAS
T: (212) 219-9401, X119
E: djuras@lmcc.net
BENJAMIN TRIMMIER
(212) 431-0233, X228

**THE LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM
and
THE LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL
present**

**THE BURQA PROJECT:
On the Borders of My Dreams I Encountered My Double's Ghost
An Artist Installation by Jn. Ulrick Désert**

*September 1– November 17, 2002
Public reception for the artist to be held Thursday, September 5, 6-8 PM
At the Museum's Visitors Center, 90 Orchard Street at Broome*

The Burqa Project inaugurates a yearlong exhibition series, Points of Entry, in the four storefront windows of 97 Orchard Street, a partnership between the Museum and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

The Burqa Project celebrates the strengths of cultural iconography by creating traditional Muslim veils using modern flags of the industrialized western nations. This minimal and precise installation creates complex interpretations for the street-viewing public and poses a visual question where words are insufficient in the difficult periods before and after September 11, 2001. Understanding that the audience may bring personal conceptions - and even prejudices - to the viewing, Ulrick Désert seeks to engage viewers in an intimate and personal manner and to invite their responses to the open-ended nature of his visual question.

An American artist born in the former French colony of Haiti, Jn.(Jean) Ulrick Désert was raised in New York City and is currently based in Paris, Berlin and New York. Désert received his Master of Architecture from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and his Bachelor of Architecture from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Architecture. His projects and installations have been exhibited internationally in Berlin, Brussels, Munich, Amsterdam and New York. Recently, he was awarded a residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Désert creates conceptually-based sculpture, photographs, performances, installations and media that employ cultural iconography, popular culture and historical representations.

On September 11, 2001, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council lost its World Trade Center offices, performance venue, studio and exhibition spaces, and 3 decades of archives tracing Lower Manhattan's cultural history. In the past 11 months, LMCC has worked to re-establish its arts programs and develop new opportunities for artists.

For 30 years, LMCC has contributed to downtown's quality of life by creating a fertile environment for arts groups and artists and presenting free programs in the visual, performing and new media arts in alternative, free-to-the-public settings. Now one of Manhattan's most far-reaching arts councils, LMCC is a primary source of support services-including grants, residencies, presentation opportunities and professional development-for artists Downtown and throughout the diverse communities of Manhattan.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum's programs are developed in keeping with its mission: "To promote tolerance and historical perspective through the presentation and interpretation of the variety of immigrant and migrant experiences on Manhattan's Lower East Side, a gateway to America."

The heart of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is its landmark tenement building, home to nearly 7,000 immigrants from over 20 nations, between 1863 and 1935. The Museum's artistic programming is as old as the institution itself and a major component of its "Usable Past" initiative. Beginning with the 1988 theatre production of "The Washingtons: Free Blacks in the 19th Century," the collaborations have evolved beyond the Tenement Theatre (formerly John Schneider's Saloon from 1865 to 1886) to embrace the visual arts and dance. A founding member of the International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience, the Tenement Museum is committed to using the history of its site to address contemporary issues and promote democratic principles. Please call (212) 431-0233 or visit our website at www.tenement.org for a complete list of programs.

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