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**THE LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL**  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**THE LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM**  
PRESENTS

**REGARDING THE MIHRAB**

**An installation by Can Tiryaki, Tom Morbitzer and Goil Amornvivat**

**June 1-August 17, 2003**

**Public reception for the artists: Thursday, June 5, 6pm-8pm  
at 90 Orchard Street, corner of Broome**

**Regarding the *Mihrab*** explores how everyday space can be converted into a sacred site. This is the last installation of the yearlong exhibition series, ***Points of Entry***, in the four storefront windows of 97 Orchard Street, a partnership between LMCC and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. The series explores the significance of immigrant communities in New York City, their experiences since 9/11, the issues surrounding new immigration policies, and global realities.

In the Museum's windows, the 3 artists have created an artificial wall that appears to extend the surface of the building's façade to carve out a *Mihrab*, or Muslim prayer niche, which directs the body towards Mecca. The simple form of the *Mihrab* identifies a space of spiritual growth and healing. The artists also reference other spaces on the Lower East Side that immigrants have transformed into diverse spiritual centers.

**Can Tiryaki** was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is currently working as an architect in New York. Tiryaki received a bachelors degree in architecture from Carnegie Mellon University and his masters from Yale University. His current professional experience includes master planning and residential projects in Europe and the U.S. He recently received the national S.O.M. Foundation Urban Design Fellowship for which he proposed an examination of nomad-ism and its influence on sedentary culture in Central Asia and the Middle East. He was also awarded the Eero Saarinen Award for Design Excellence and teaching fellowships in Islamic Architecture, Architectural Design, and Drawing from Yale University.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, **Thomas Morbitzer** is currently working as an architect in New York. Morbitzer received his BS in Architecture from Ohio State University and his masters from Yale University. His studies of urban issues include collaborations with many community initiatives including the Yale Urban Design Workshop. His current professional experiences include residential and institutional projects. His awards include the distinction of First Runner-up for the Universal Warning Sign Design Competition 2001: Fields Asphodel (with Goil Amornvivat), Maverick Award from the Ecole des Beaux Arts Americaines, James Gamble Rogers Memorial Fellowship and the Eero Saarinen Award for Design Excellence from Yale University.

**Goil Amornvivat** is an architect and artist residing in New York; he was born in Bangkok, Thailand. He earned his bachelors degree in architecture from the Carnegie Mellon University and his masters from Yale University. His work deals with poetics in art and architecture. Goil has shown at the Marjorie Barrick Museum at UNLV in Las Vegas, Nevada and the Ace Gallery in Los Angeles, among other venues. Awards include a grant from Creative Capital Foundation (with Sawad Brooks), an Honorable

Mention for the Oklahoma City National Memorial: International Design Competition (with Yella Lee and Phillip Schmerbeck), the Moulton Andrus Award for excellence in art and architecture, and the AIA Stewart L. Brown Award for Overall Excellence in Design, and recently is a finalist at the Walker Art Center's Telematic Table Design Competition (with Sawad Brooks and Tom Morbitzer + Can Tiryaki). As a professor and guest critic, Goil has taught at Yale University, Catholic University of America, Maryland Institute College of Art, NYIT, Parsons School of Design, Ohio State University, and Carnegie Mellon University.

For 30 years, the **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council** has contributed to the quality of downtown 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 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 focuses on projects that help expand visitors' understanding of contemporary immigration through works inspired and informed by history. Productions have been developed by leading arts organizations, including Doug Varone and Dancers, Red Dive Productions, City Lights Youth Theatre, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Immigrant Theater Project.

**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." Visitors to the Tenement Museum tour carefully restored tenement apartments and learn about the lives of actual past residents: the Gumpertz family, German Jews (1870s), the Rogarshevsky family, Eastern European Jews (1918), and the Baldizzi family, Italian Catholics (1930s). An interactive, living history family oriented program focuses on the Confinos, Sephardic Jews from Greece (1916). In February 2002, the Levine family home and sweatshop became the fifth restored apartment at 97 Orchard Street.

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