

EJAY WEISS: *9/11 ELEGIES: 2001-2011* to OPEN ON SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 2011 AT SAINT PETER'S CHURCH AND REMAIN ON VIEW UNTIL SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

Commemorating Tenth Anniversary of 9/11, the Twelve Panels to be shown together in New York City for First Time

Elegy Paintings to be Exhibited at Weiss's Panels at Future 9/11 National Memorial Museum at Ground Zero

Chelsea Symphony to Perform "Tribute to New York" Concert at Saint Peter's on September 17, 2011. World Premiere of Composition by Aaron Dai inspired on Weiss' *Elegies*



9/11 ELEGIES: 2001-2011, an exhibition by New York artist EJAY WEISS, will open on August 20, 2011 and be on view through September 25, 2011 in the Narthex Gallery at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church (at Citicorp Plaza, Lexington Ave and 54th Street). A press breakfast will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 12 noon. The artist will be available to discuss the process and visual metaphysics of these paintings. An artist reception for the public will take place on Thursday,

September 8, 2011 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

9/11 ELEGY["Footprint panel"] (panel 1 of 9)
2001, acrylic and ash on canvas, 60in x 60in

Based on the artist's personal and profound experience as a witness to the destruction of the Twin Towers, the *9/11 ELEGIES: 2001-2011* exhibition includes a chronological series of twelve paintings. The first three panels portray the initial destruction of the Twin Towers. The 5'-square (*Footprint Panels*) and the rectangular panel (*the Redemption Panel*) represent the following day. The next six (*Ghost City*) panels, completed in September 2002, reflect a year of clean-up and clearing of the WTC site, as well as our emotional environment at that time. The final three panels (*the Resolution Triptych*), were completed in 2011.

Weiss began working on the first nine canvases of the *Elegy* series, seven of which contain ash from the site, in 2001. Panels eight and nine have no actual physical remnant of 9/11, but are suspended in a shroud of haze, to reflect the uncertainty of the times. In the decade that followed 9/11, Weiss decided to resolve and complete the series of *Elegies*, since he felt enough time has elapsed to shift the perspective. By February 2011 he began painting three larger canvases, each 8'x4' entitled, *The Resolution Triptych* which reflect a more constructive and hopeful footing. Weiss' powerful twelve *Elegy* paintings are being exhibited together for the first time here, in New York City.

Art critic Jill Conner, New York editor for *Whitehot Magazine* and a contributor to *Art in America*, *Afterimage*, *ArtUS*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Interview Magazine*, *Performance Art Journal* and *Sculpture Magazine*, recently wrote in an essay entitled "Emergence: New Paintings of EJay Weiss" and described the nine original *Elegy* panels in this way, "As the remnants of devastation smoldered, the artist was among those who walked down to the site and collected a handful of ashes. He mixed them with his powdered black pigment.... Over the course of the year, Weiss depicted this sudden collapse through a field of sky blue, which initially appears embedded within layers of black, over a *red, white and blue* painted ground. The last four canvases in this (initial) series capture hues reminiscent of clear sky and suggest the start of a new beginning. Weiss' "*Elegies*... evoke Pablo Picasso's painting "*Guernica*," (1937) as both artists utilized the language of abstraction"

Unlike Picasso, who was in Paris when the German's bombed the Spanish town of Guernica, Weiss was a direct witness to 9/11, and as Robert Frost said in his poem *A Road Not Taken*, "that has made all of the difference."

The curators of the 9/11 National Memorial Museum, now under construction at Ground Zero, intend to exhibit the 9/11 *ELEGIES* after the museum is completed in late 2012.

In conjunction with 9/11 *ELEGIES: 2001-2011*, The Chelsea Symphony, co-conducted by Matt Aubin and Yaniv Segal, will perform a "Tribute to New York" concert at Saint Peter's on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 8:00 PM, which includes the world premiere of a work

composed by resident composer Aaron Dai, largely inspired by Weiss *Elegies*. Also included is the world premiere performance of *Golden Sky*, a work by Israeli composer Yishai Shefi, whose brother was killed in the Twin Towers on 9/11. The concert will be recorded, as part of the 9/11 National Memorial Museum's aural archives and a portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Saint Peter's Choir, under the direction of Thomas Schmidt, will also perform. A reception follows the concert on September 17. The Narthex Gallery at Saint Peter's is open daily from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM.



EJay Weiss in his Studio with Elegy Paintings. Photo Credit: Hugh Browne

EJay Weiss, a native New Yorker, studied architecture and painting at Pratt Institute. He developed an architectonic view of the picture-plane, evolved over 30 years as a *geoscopic perspective*. The spatial evolution of his paintings, engage the viewer in ways, which-topologically redefine the parameters of painting. Between 1992 and 2008 he also served as artist-in-residence and design coordinator at the Cabrini Hospice NY. In 2005 he was the first artist to be invited to conduct a colloquium at Rutgers University Graduate Division of Global Affairs. In 2010, Rutgers invited him to teach his “out of the box” course: *Art & Globalization: An Artist's Perspective* at their Political Science department's graduate division. The artist has also presented his *global perspectives* lectures at The New School University, the School of Visual Arts Museum Studies Program, and for the MFA program at Montclair State University. Weiss' work is in collections on five continents. He has

received numerous grants and honors, and two of his exhibitions (in 1998 & 2009) received nominations for AICA (American Wing of the International Art Critics Association) awards. He lives and works in his studio in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, about a mile and a half north of the World Trade Center.