

## Press Release

### Artists and writers call for coexistence around the world

Out of the reality of violence in the Middle East and the conflicts happening around the world today, comes an independent initiative from a socio-political contemporary art museum in Jerusalem, a giant outdoor art exhibition shown in the center of cities around the world and received with the blessing and gratitude of leaders across the globe.

The Museum on the Seam in Jerusalem, established through the support of the von Holtzbrinck family of Germany turned to artists from around the world to join with their message of coexistence or criticism of intolerance and participate in an exhibition that would reach millions of people and challenge them to think differently about themselves and their communities. While politics is in a constant search of finding solutions, art and the written word may have found the answers.

The exhibition began its journey in Jerusalem in July 2001 and has since been mounted in central and significant locations in cities across Europe, the United States, South Africa, New Zealand and South America. The exhibition has been shown in Berlin, Cape Town and in Washington D.C. where it attracted a large number of visitors during its stay at the Capital Reflecting Pool at the end of the Mall on Third Street. The opening took place in the presence of members of the Congress from the Senate and the House of Representatives, Ambassadors and a large audience.

The outdoor exhibition is made up of 45 large scale works measuring 9 x 15 ft that are accompanied by text panels with quotes by philosophers and leading thinkers that represent a wide range of concepts and issues that affect human relations and norms of behavior – living side by side in the global village that makes up our world.

In the reality of immigration and cultural exchange, in the reality of nations undergoing metamorphoses and redefinition of themselves - the exhibition guides us to open ourselves to difference and the “other” in our midst in order to ensure a better, more comfortable and calmer world for future generations to inherit.

This exhibition sends a visual message of understanding and compassion in order to awaken people in all places to think about how each one of us can in his/her own way make a small step toward the unfamiliar and the different.

The second tour of the exhibition in the US will close at the end of 2007. The exhibition will then return to South America for a second visit and then move on to Europe for a return journey by popular demand throughout 2008.

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