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AFTERMATH

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ARCHIVE

BY JOEL MEYEROWITZ

“I came in as an outsider, an observer bent on keeping the record, but over time I began to feel a part of the very project I’d been intent on recording...I documented the aftermath for everyone who couldn’t be there. But this book is dedicated to those who were.”

–Joel Meyerowitz, from the introduction to AFTERMATH

After September 11th, 2001, the Ground Zero site in New York City was classified as a crime scene and only those directly involved in the recovery efforts were allowed inside. The press was also prohibited from the site, but with the help of the Museum of the City of New York and sympathetic city officials, award-winning photographer Joel Meyerowitz obtained unlimited access. By ingenuity and sheer determination, he was the only photographer granted unimpeded right of entry into Ground Zero.

For 9 months, during the day and night, Meyerowitz photographed "the pile," as the World Trade Center came to be known, and the over 800 people a day that were working in it. Influenced by Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange's work for the Farm Security Administration during the Great Depression, he knew that if he didn't make a photographic record of the unprecedented recovery efforts, “there would be no history.”

Marking the 5th anniversary of September 11th, Phaidon Press will publish an extraordinary new book **AFTERMATH: THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ARCHIVE** (Hardback, \$75.00, 304 pages) with photographs and text by Joel Meyerowitz, which will feature, for the first time, the vast collection of Meyerowitz’s previously unpublished photos from Ground Zero along with the engaging account of his experience in his own words. This historic publication is the only existing photographic record of the monumental recovery efforts post-9/11.

From portraits of the people he met to the accidental beauty of the ruins at sunset, AFTERMATH features 400 breathtaking color photographs, all taken with a large format camera. Bronx-born Meyerowitz brings his trademark sensitivity, intelligence and eye for beauty to these poignant images that will hold an important place in American history.

AFTERMATH brings to life the tireless determination of the scores of individuals who assisted in the clean-up process, including construction workers, police officers, firefighters, welders or “burners,” engineers, crane operators and volunteers. Presented on a monumental scale, and interspersed with fascinating stories, the book documents the transformation of the site chronologically from one of total devastation to level ground. This landmark book offers current and future generations the opportunity to finally travel inside a forbidden city where thousands were brought together by a common cause.

“I was taking pictures for everyone who didn’t have access to the site,” says Meyerowitz in AFTERMATH, “so I decided to work with a large-format wooden view camera. This camera was impossible to hide, but it enabled me to make images of the fullest description, with a sense of deep space. I wanted to communicate what it felt like to *be* in there as well as what it looked like: to show the pile’s incredible intricacy and visceral power...I could provide a window for everyone else who wanted to be there, too—to help, or to grieve, or simply to try to understand what had happened to our city.”

The World Trade Center Archive, consisting of thousands of Meyerowitz’s images, is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of the City of New York where it is available for research, exhibition and publication. For the past few years, a small selection of these photographs was featured in an exhibition, “After September 11: Images from Ground Zero,” which travelled to more than 200 cities in 60 countries, reaching over 3.5 million people.

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About the Author

Joel Meyerowitz (b. 1938) is an award-winning photographer, whose work has appeared in over 350 exhibitions in museums and galleries around the world, including The Museum of Modern Art and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. As an early advocate of color photography in the 1960's, he was instrumental in changing the attitude toward the use of color from one of resistance to nearly universal acceptance. His first book, *Cape Light*, is a classic and has sold more than 100,000 copies. He is the author of 14 other books, including *Bystander: The History of Street Photography* and *Tuscany: Inside the Light*. He is a Guggenheim fellow and a recipient of both the NEA and NEH awards.

Joel is an engaging speaker and has lectured at The Library of Congress, The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, The American Embassy in Rome, The Boston Museum of Fine Arts and many universities including Georgetown, NYU and the University of Michigan. He has appeared on such programs as "CBS Sunday Morning," "Good Morning America" and "Nightline." He lives in New York City.

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