

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan C. Dessel
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EXHIBIT EXTENDED AN ADDITIONAL WEEK

crystal clear: an installation by susan c. dessel

on view in the Gallery at Park Avenue Synagogue for an additional week:
December 24 – December 28, 2012



New York City (December 23, 2012) – Exhibit extended through Sunday, December 30, 2012. On view in the Gallery - Park Avenue Synagogue is *crystal clear*, an installation by Manhattan/Long Island City artist susan c. dessel, Recipient, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council 2012 Manhattan Community Arts Fund Award. It is a timely reminder of the need of all people for help in recovering from natural and human-made disasters and how that help should be provided free of national or religious ties. Dessel focuses on the symbol that accompanies the emergency workers, showing it as the fragile protection that keeps them safe and announces their good intentions. What we see, however, is a broken icon and it is not familiar. We are asked to consider this symbol in the light of our linked humanity increasingly expressed around the globe through social networking.

The exhibit is based on a statement made in October, 1930 by Max Huber, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from 1928 to 1944, about the humanitarian efforts undertaken by member countries of the ICRC: "Only the unity of the distinctive sign can ensure that it is respected internationally." More than eighty years later, Dessel's broken image covering the structures' walls reminds us of the flawed reality: there is no unity because the ICRC has accepted two symbols, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, while refusing to accept the Magen David Adom, the Red Star of David. In 2005, the ICRC adopted a neutral symbol, the Red Crystal, but failed to make its use universal. It is that universality that Dessel asks us to consider and support by adding our names and thoughts to the expanding installation.

Dessel's work is accessible to viewers regardless of cultural traditions or backgrounds. Through the engagement of the public in the creation of this work, the installation gives voice to the strength of our shared need for shelter without disparaging our differences. Through her choice of materials: raw wood and transparencies, Dessel reminds viewers of the rawness of temporary shelters and suggests hoped-for accountability by governmental and non-governmental agencies. She sees comfort and discomfort existing side-by-side within the installation's form and space.

SPONSORSHIP

This exhibit is made possible in part with public funds from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

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Admission: Free and open to the public.

Please tell Security that you are there to view the art in the second floor gallery.

ADDITIONAL VIEWING HOURS:

Sunday, December 23 , CLOSED

Monday, December 24, 9am – 12:30pm

CLOSED Tuesday, December 25

Wednesday, December 26, 9am – 6pm

Thursday, December 27, 9am -6pm

Friday, December 28, 9am – **3pm**

Location: 50 East 87th Street (Entrance on Madison Avenue, S.E. corner). The Gallery is on the second floor, accessible by elevator.

By Subway: 4, 5, 6 trains to East 86th Street.

By Bus: M86 Crosstown to Madison Avenue. #1, 2, 3, 4 Buses on Madison Avenue to East 86th Street.

Walk uptown one-half block on Madison Ave. to East 87th St.

As the exhibit has been extended for an additional week, for information or to arrange an appointment in the gallery with the artist, please call (917) 817-4964 or e-mail:

scd@desselstudio.net

Artist susan c. dessel is a recipient of 2012 and 2009 Manhattan Community Art Fund Awards from the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs/Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; 2010 Lighton Foundation and Puffin Foundation Awards and a 2008 Foundation For Contemporary Arts (NYC) Emergency Grant. She holds a BFA from Hunter College (2003) and an MFA from Brooklyn College (2006). Dessel was a Visiting Artist at the Umm el-Fahem Gallery, Umm el-Fahem, Israel (2011), and Artist-In-Residence in Yerevan, Armenia (2010) and Prague, Czech Republic (2008).

Dessel's studio is located in the L.I.C. Art Center. Her memberships include LICA (Long Island City Artists), NY Artists Circle, Women's Caucus for Art (WCA), and the Jewish Art Salon. For more information about the artist please visit desselstudio.net.

Image: Photographer susan c. dessel ©

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