

## Co-creator of 9/11 'Tribute in Light' to present public lecture

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MILWAUKEE... Julian LaVerdiere, co-creator of the "Tribute in Light" temporary memorial to the victims of September 11, 2001, will lecture on Art after Crisis – the Tribute in Light on Friday, September 15, 2006, 7:30 p.m. (IMAGES AVAILABLE)

The free and public lecture is part of LaVerdiere's visit to the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, Wisconsin's only independent, fully accredited four-year art and design college.

Art after Crisis – the Tribute in Light is sponsored by MIAD's Board of Trustees and Lighthouse Development Company, LLC. It will be held at Lighthouse's Transpak project, 235 E. Pittsburgh Avenue, one block southeast of MIAD in Milwaukee's Fifth Ward. A public reception will follow on MIAD's Riverwalk at 9 p.m., 273 E. Erie St.

LaVerdiere, a native resident of New York City, holds a bachelor of fine arts and a master's degree in sculpture. He is a founding member of the production-design collective BigRoom LLC, which has received international acclaim for its innovative approach to commercial production design. In 2000, he was granted a residency at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Studio Program on the 91<sup>st</sup> floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower.

Following the events of 9/11, in 2001 and 2002, LaVerdiere worked with fellow-artist Paul Myoda, three architects, Creative Time and the Municipal Art Society of New York to create "Tribute in Light." This public artwork has subsequently been selected to become an annual addition to the World Trade Center memorial.

Art after Crisis – the Tribute in Light will focus on the work's genesis, its effect on the artist and the role of politically conscious art. As befitting a college of art and design with 11 B.F.A. majors, LaVerdiere will also engage MIAD sculpture students in an intensive seminar.

LaVerdiere is the recipient of numerous awards and grants for individual and public art collaborations, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Warhol Foundation Grant. He has had solo and group exhibitions in the United States and Europe, and his work is included in the permanent collections of PS1-MOMA, New York; MOCA, Miami; Museu Nacional de Historia Natural, Portugal; and the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Employing a pastiche of symbols, signs and themes from the past and present, LaVerdiere draws attention to pivotal moments and events that serve as harbingers of change.

For event information, including a map, visit [www.miad.edu](http://www.miad.edu); for LaVerdiere's current work, visit his agent's site, [www.lehmannmaupin.com](http://www.lehmannmaupin.com); for the Tribute in Light, visit [www.tributeinlight.com](http://www.tributeinlight.com).

MIAD is Wisconsin's only college devoted exclusively to the education of professional artists and designers. Founded in 1974, it is accredited to award the bachelor of fine arts degree in 11 majors. With 80 percent of its 1,800 graduates living and working in Wisconsin, the college contributes a vital "brain gain" to the state that shapes its creative and economic future.