



Smithsonian American Art Museum

## MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release  
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### **Distinguished Panel to Explore How Temporary Public Art Installations Might Prove to be Powerful Alternatives to Permanent Commemoration**

**Washington, DC** – Are permanent works of granite the best way to pay tribute to America's most significant people and events? Or might temporary public art installations prove to be powerful alternatives to the nation's commemorative landscape? These are just some of the questions a distinguished panel of artists will discuss tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the McEvoy Auditorium at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Panelists include **Julian LaVerdiere**, designer of the World Trade Center Tribute in Light; **Justine Simons**, director of London's Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square; and **Krzysztof Wodiczko**, Harvard professor and artist in temporary and interactive light installations. U.S. Commission of Fine Arts Secretary **Thomas Luebke** will moderate the discussion. Participants will share their global approaches to public art, placemaking, and national commemoration and explore how temporary art installations in Washington could help to shape the future of the nation's narrative.

The program is presented in partnership by the National Capital Planning Commission, Smithsonian American Art Museum, British Council, and the Trust for the National Mall. There is no charge to attend.

**What:** Beyond Granite - Global Approaches to Public Art, Placemaking, and National Commemoration

**When:** Tonight, Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Who:** Participants

- Julian LaVerdiere, Designer, World Trade Center Tribute in Light [http://www.julianlaverdiere.com/production\\_design/AGENCY.html](http://www.julianlaverdiere.com/production_design/AGENCY.html)
- Justine Simons, Director, London's Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square and head of cultural strategy for the London Mayor's Office <http://www.london.gov.uk/fourthplinth/>
- Krzysztof Wodiczko, Harvard professor and artist in temporary light installations <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/people/faculty/wodiczko/index.html>
- Thomas Luebke (Moderator), Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

**Where:** Smithsonian American Art Museum, Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium

To RSVP, email [SpeakerSeries@ncpc.gov](mailto:SpeakerSeries@ncpc.gov).

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