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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ART OF PEACE CHARITABLE TRUST TO CREATE 30-FOOT PEACE MONUMENT FROM
MELTED WEAPONS COLLECTED WORLDWIDE**

Non-Profit Partners with International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)

NEW YORK, New York, September 1, 2008 - The Art of Peace Charitable Trust (AOPCT) announced today plans to create the New York Angel of Peace Monument, a 30 by 32-foot sculpture for the City of New York, from melted weapons collected worldwide. AOPCT partnered with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) in an effort to achieve world peace through the permanent destruction of war artillery. AOPCT is set to kick off its worldwide initiative on September 11, 2008 at the United Nations.

The New York Peace Angel of Peace Monument, designed by renowned artist Lin Evola Smidt, will be mounted on a base called, "The Conversation" which includes thirty portrait sculptures of individuals who have done "extreme good" for humanity. The monument, which will be one of the most expensive sculptures ever created, will be unveiled upon its completion in 2012 and donated to the City of New York.

"The losses suffered on September 11, 2001 endure in each of us a void that will never be filled. Yet even in our sorrow, we can also find reason for hope. On 9/11 we recognize the incredible courage of our City's heroes. I believe they would want us to do as they did and look beyond ourselves. We can do that by creating a community of hope and prosperity for future generations. The New York Angel of Peace Monument will be an important part of the process," added Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

(more)

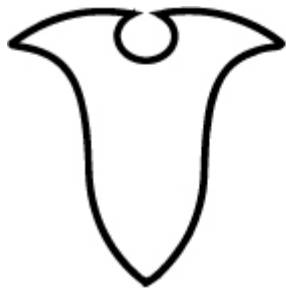
Evola Smidt is best known for her New York Renaissance Peace Angel, a thirteen-foot sculpture ensconced in the World Trade Center recovery area following September 11, 2001. “My husband

Daniel and I were exposed to the toxins from this event and he passed away. Since his death, I’ve committed my life to world peace and believe anyone can make a difference. It takes will and courage to make change happen,” Evola Smidt stated.

The United Nations Department of Disarmament in New York and Geneva, Switzerland endorse Evola Smidt and AOPCT’s efforts. They are also lauded by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and former President Clinton, as well as by Commissioner Raymond Kelly NYPD and Sheriff Lee Baca LASD. Besides the New York Peace Angel Monument, Lin Evola has been asked to create Peace Monuments for: Los Angeles, California; Johannesburg, South Africa; Sarajevo, Bosnia/Herzegovina; and for Jerusalem, Israel.

The fundraiser will take place at the United Nations, Delegates Dining Room, on Thursday, September 11, 2008. For ticket information please visit www.theartofpeacecharitabletrust.org

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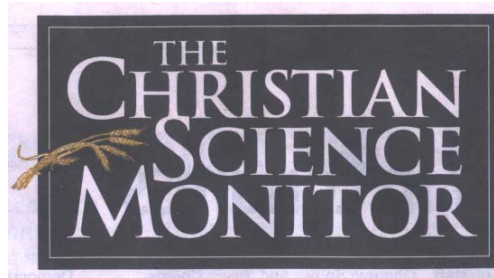


Art of Peace
Charitable Trust

PRESS CLIPS



RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.



December 19, 2008

ARTS & CULTURE



LIN EVOLA-SMIDT
TURNS WEAPONS
INTO ART – ON AN
INCREASINGLY
AMBITIOUS SCALE.



STEPHANIE KEITH/SPECIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

FOR NEW YORK: A 30-foot sculpture called 'The Peace Angel' will be installed when completed in a few years by Lin Evola-Smidt (above). A smaller version was temporarily installed at ground zero in 2001.

SENDING angels

By **MATTHEW SHAEER**
STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK

The artist Lin Evola-Smidt lives these days in Manhattan, but she is fond of saying that her sculpting career really began 3,000 miles and a world away.

This was back in the early 1990s, when Los Angeles murder rates were among the highest in the country and local authorities struggled to tamp down illegal gun sales. Ms. Evola-Smidt followed the news from her San Francisco home with a growing sense of dread. Her son, Jason, was 8 at the time. What kind of world did he stand to inherit?

"I'd been an artist since the first time I opened my eyes, but I wanted more at that moment than to just create a piece of art. I wanted people to make a shift within themselves," Evola-Smidt remembers.

She is speaking at the offices of her publicity firm, Rubenstein Communications, which sits some 30 floors above midtown Manhattan. It's almost winter, and behind her, outside a row of ceiling-length glass windows, the greenery of Central Park is turning slowly to dun.

sculpture

With the benefit of hindsight, of course, the whole, grand idea sounds pretty outlandish, even to Evola-Smidt: First, convince a chunk of Los Angeles residents to voluntarily give up their guns. Then melt down the weapons and create art. And not just any art, but statues of angels, which, as Evola-Smidt points out, have historically stood for "the uplifting of humanity." For a few weeks, Evola-Smidt played devil's advocate with herself. "I told myself to get ready," she says. "I thought lots of people would say 'No way.'"

But with the aid of the Los Angeles County See ANGELS page 15

ARTS & CULTURE

Angels: Arms become art of peace

Continued from page 13

Sheriff's Department, Evola-Smidt's program slowly took shape, and by the end of the '90s, she had created a small army of metal angels, each standing between one and three feet tall. She attracted press attention, although not without a few hitches — when CNN arrived to film the first weapons melt, the smoke from the guns was so acrid that the network's cameras failed.

She spoke to big-name politicians from around the globe, including former President Bill Clinton, who was the first recipient of a Peace Angel. And she shuttled between coasts and continents, drumming up interest in disarmament. All the while, Evola-Smidt was working off the early designs she'd first conceived in California: a sculpture with traces of both Renaissance and modern influence, familiar in form and unique in metallurgic makeup. The angels have been described as soothing and "serene," although it's the wings that really draw the eye — wide and towering and ruffled by an imaginary wind.

"She was always very passionate about making the angels, both from an arts and cultural standpoint," says Chris McGrath, a manager at Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry, Polich, which is located in Rock Tavern, N.Y., has been involved with the Peace Angel project since 1999; each sculpture is now produced there under Evola-Smidt's guidance.

"About 12 years ago, after the project had gathered a good deal of steam, Evola-Smidt decided to ratchet up the scale of the angels. If the old sculptures could fit comfortably on a tabletop, the new ones would be fit

for a park — Evola-Smidt envisioned some reaching 20 or 30 feet. The production time, of course, would increase exponentially; the implementation process was already extremely time intensive, requiring months of effort for each sculpture. So Evola-Smidt took it slowly, and in 1997 she finished work on a 13-foot "Renaissance Peace Angel."

In 2001, Evola-Smidt married a well-respected philanthropist named Daniel Peabody-Smidt, and after years of West Coast life, she relocated to New Jersey, where Mr. Peabody-Smidt lived. Things were very good; then they got very bad. On Sept. 11, terrorists crashed planes into the World Trade Center, and the newlyweds moved into lower Manhattan to lend support to the cleanup efforts. The "Renaissance Peace Angel," meanwhile, was transported to ground zero, to serve as a "symbol of hope," Evola-Smidt says.

But Evola-Smidt speculates that she and her husband stayed too long in the area without adequate protection in the face of poor air quality. Both eventually went through detox programs at local medical centers; still, Peabody-Smidt, who may have also been exposed to Agent Orange during his service in the Vietnam War, saw his health decline. In 2005, after a series of breakdowns, he took his own life.

"They say that grief makes you deeper," Evola-Smidt says. "Not for me. I didn't want to do anything for a long time." But when she emerged from her period of mourning, she says, she was more intent than ever to pour her energy into the Peace Angels project, which she began to think of as a kind of elegy for her late husband.

In September, exactly seven years after the 9/11 attacks, Evola-Smidt held a reception and dinner at the United Nations to announce the creation of the Art of Peace Charitable Trust, which, according to a pamphlet distributed at the event, will seek to combat "the proliferation of small firearms, light artillery and other weapons of war." A score of cities have reportedly expressed interest in the trust, including Jerusalem; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Johannesburg, South Africa.

But first, the hard part: wrangling the raw materials for the angels, which she says will include everything from melted small arms to decommissioned missile casings.

"Weapon-destruction programs are not often publicized by the governments that fund them," says Mark Marge, the UN liaison at International Action Network on Small Arms, which has been working to help Evola-Smidt secure weapons. "I think what makes Lin's project more powerful than a regular gun-removal program is the symbolism involved."

Evola-Smidt says wants the angels to go to areas where a peace process is already under way. "I think of each spot as an acupuncture point on the globe," she says.

The first angel built under the auspices of the trust will measure 30 feet high and is scheduled to be installed here in New York within the next four years. "To me," Evola-Smidt says of the sculpture, "it will be my husband in there. It's extremely personal. The project was personal before, but now there's no space in between."

'I think what makes Lin's project more powerful than a regular gun-removal program is the symbolism involved.'

— Mark Marge, International Action Network on Small Arms



RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.

THE NONPROFIT TIMES

November 1, 2008

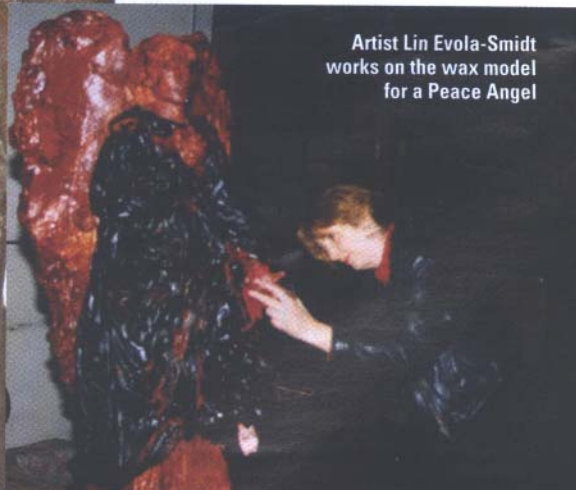
A Different Kind Of Canvas

Some artists use clay, some use paint, and some apparently even use weapons.

The Art of Peace Charitable Trust (AOPCT), created by artist **Lin Evola-Smidt**, is dedicated to "fostering lasting peace" through gathering weapons and melting them to create peace angel monuments. The organization plans to donate its first peace angel monument to the City of New York.

The 30- by -32-foot monument will be created from melted weapons collected worldwide with the help of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), a global movement of organizations against gun violence.

The sculpture, expected to be completed by 2012, will be mounted on a base called "The Conversation," which includes 30 portrait sculptures of people who have done "extreme good" for humanity. Evola-Smidt also created a 13-foot New York Renaissance Peace Angel in the World Trade Center recovery area. - *MARK HRYWNA*



Artist Lin Evola-Smidt works on the wax model for a Peace Angel



RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.

Art of Peace Charitable Trust



October 15, 2008

LIVES IN PHILANTHROPY

LIN EVOLA-SMIDT

The Art of Peace Charitable Trust

BY JILLIAN BLUME

The Art of Peace Charitable Trust Inaugural Dinner was held in the United Nations Delegates' Dining Room on the anniversary of 9/11, in keeping with its mission. Based in New York, the trust was founded by artist Lin Evola-Smidt to promote world peace through the collection of weapons on the street and of war, which are then melted down and used to create her remarkable "peace monuments." Both the United Nations Department of Disarmament in New York and Geneva, Switzerland have endorsed her and the charitable trust's efforts.

An artist for as long as she can remember, Ms. Evola-Smidt was a conceptual artist and painter, with solo exhibitions in museums and galleries all over the world. But after what she describes as an inspirational experience in 1992 and the discovery that 1,000 children were killed in Los Angeles County every year, she decided that she needed a new medium to fulfill her vision.

"It was very important that, whatever I decided to do, it would change hearts and transform the way humanity views itself, so we can move away from conflict towards cooperation. What I came up with was a contemporary version of the ancient Axiom of melting Swords into Ploughshares," she said. This quest led to the creation of a project founded in California in 1992 and evolved in 2008 into the mission of The Art of Peace Charitable Trust. She was not interested in merely using weapons to make art, but rather in asking people to participate by giving up their own weapons, which she then melted down and transformed into monuments of peace. She found that different cities yielded different weapons, with Los Angeles, New York, and Johannesburg collecting guns, while in Sarajevo, it was land mines. Other cities have yielded machine guns, cluster bombs, and decommissioned missile casings.

Immediately after the attack on the World Trade Center, Ms. Evola-Smidt brought her 13-foot Renaissance Peace Monument from California to downtown New York, where firemen, rescue workers, and police officers spontaneously signed the statue's base. It remained in the city for nine

months, during which time it was promised as a gift to the September 11th Memorial Museum.

Recently, she has been working on a plan to create the first New York Peace Monument from weapons collected in New York and worldwide, partnering with the International Action Network on Small Arms (a global movement against gun violence), the NYC police department, and Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. Conflict resolution programs will also be available through the Police Athletic League, The Council for Unity, and Youth at Risk.

This 30-foot monument will be mounted on a base called "The Conversation" that will have 30 portrait sculptures of individuals who have dedicated their work to achieve peace for humanity. Two of those portraits will be of Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and George Soros, founder and chairman of The Open Society Institute.

For Ms. Evola-Smidt there is no division between her life and her work. "I live to be of service," she said. "I've spoken to many young people and have seen how this work has changed their lives. I want to go to their college graduations instead of their funerals."





RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.

Art of Peace Charitable Trust

Bloomberg.com

September 30, 2008

Bombs Into Angels: Sculptor Melts Weapons to Make Art, Peace

By Patrick Cole



Sept. 30 (Bloomberg) -- Sculptor Lin Evola-Smidt has a new take on Isaiah: Instead of swords into plowshares, she collects firearms, bombs and missile casings, melts them down and turns them into angels.

Her Peace Angels Project converted weapons to 3-foot-tall artworks and has earned the Chicago native exhibitions at museums and galleries in the U.S. Cities including New York, Los Angeles, Johannesburg and Sarajevo have asked her to make 30-foot-tall renderings of her angels.

``We want to melt down weapons worldwide," Evola-Smidt said. ``What I love about my work is that it's a solid, actual peace process."

Evola-Smidt said she was inspired to make art from deadly weapons because hundreds of children were being killed in gun-related incidents in Los Angeles, where she lived in the 1990s. ``My son was 8 years old at the time, and I just couldn't imagine losing him," she said.

Evola-Smidt said the first 30-foot angel will cost as much as \$20 million to produce, and she's helped form the Art of Peace Charitable Trust to fund the construction.

(more)

The organization's supporters include billionaire John Catsimatidis, chairman and chief executive officer of the Gristede's Foods Inc. grocery-store chain, and George Kalergios, president of Tres Construction LLC in New York.

The trust, which held its first fundraiser at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Sept. 11, raised more than \$75,000, according to Nadine Shelby Schramm, its treasurer and a board member.

Cluster Bombs

Evola-Smidt said she gets the weapons used in her artwork through direct appeals to police and government officials. She's obtained firearms from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and is seeking guns from the New York Police Department, cluster bombs from Belfast, semiautomatic weapons from Jerusalem and land mines from Iraq.

“I kept hearing how nations wanted to melt down weapons, so I went to them,” she said. “The hardest part was getting to the heads of state.”

Once she gets decommissioned or confiscated weapons, she sends them to a foundry to be melted down. She creates a detailed mold for the angels, including ribbed wings and a serene face. Then she hires artisans to weld the sculpture's parts together.

The Peace Trust plans to launch an international fundraising campaign to raise money for production and installation of the large-format New York angel, Evola-Smidt said.

The organization has submitted a proposal to New York's parks and recreation department to place it in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza near the U.N., Schramm said.

“Lin and all of us are calling all our friends and business associates for funding,” said Schramm, 78, the owner of Budd Enterprises/Budd Leasing Ltd., a New York theatrical trucking services firm. “Money is coming in already because everyone wants guns off the street. People don't want to have to worry about sending their children to school.”