

aljira A CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

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For Immediate Release

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9/11 Vigil

Artist Chee Wang Ng

On view September 11 through October 9, 2010

Public Program: Meet the Artist

Friday, September 24, 6-8pm

Saturday, September 25, 12-2pm

Newark, New Jersey—Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art presents the second EmergeNEXT solo project by Emerge alumni Chee Wang Ng. In his mixed-media installation *9/11 Vigil*, Ng presents a cross-cultural reflection on the loss experienced on September 11, 2001. The work consists of a large, red-striped bowl of rice with two deliberately placed chopsticks surrounded by blue, star-studded prayer candles and the sound of a Buddhist chant for salvation atop a small table. In this work Ng explores a symbolic aesthetic and relies on his signature iconic objects—bowl of rice and chopsticks—to represent an offering to God and the dead.

Nearly a quarter of the 3,000 lives lost during the World Trade Center tragedy were New Jersey residents. The project allows the viewer to contemplate what else may have been lost on this day— a sense of security or perhaps the compassionate nature we contribute to our humanity? Appropriately titled, the artist presents culturally significant objects as a personal narrative of grief for observance in a public space, just 1 year before the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

The Aljira installation is one of three identical installations concurrently on view at the Museum of Chinese in America in lower Manhattan and the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, New York.

About the Artist

Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Ng lives and works in New York City. He studied Liberal Arts at Wartburg College, Waverly, IA and earned his BFA in Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design. Providence, RI.

Ng's work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Capital Square, and Plymouth Gallery in Des Moines, IA. His works had been in exhibited at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, NY; Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, NJ; Art in General, NY; Henry Street Settlement, NY; University of California, Berkeley; State University of New York at Stony Brook; to Savannah College of Art and Design, GA. His art awards include the Aljira Emerge Six Program, and 2004 Distinguished Service to the Arts - World Food Prize Foundation. His works are in the collection of Asian American Arts Centre, NY; Arthur V. Neis, IA; and Neuberger Berman Art Collection, NY. Ng has been invited to give talks and lectures of his works to non-profit art organizations in IA, NJ, and NY to State University of New York at Stony Brook; Queens College, NY; and New York University.

About Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art

Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art fosters excellence in the visual arts through exhibitions and educational programs that serve as catalysts for inclusiveness and diversity, promote cross-cultural dialog, and enable us to better understand the time in which we live. Public understanding and support of the visual arts are strengthened through collaboration and community-based educational programming. Aljira seeks out the work of emerging and underrepresented artists and brings the work of more established artists to our community. Through the visual arts Aljira bridges racial, cultural and ethnic divides and enriches the lives of individuals.

Aljira is located at 591 Broad Street in downtown Newark. For directions visit our website at www.aljira.org. The Center is open Wednesday through Friday, 12–6 pm and Saturday, 11 am–4 pm. General admission is \$3, \$2 for seniors and students, free for children 12 years old or under accompanied by an adult. Phone 973 622-1600, fax 973 622-6526, www.aljira.org

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