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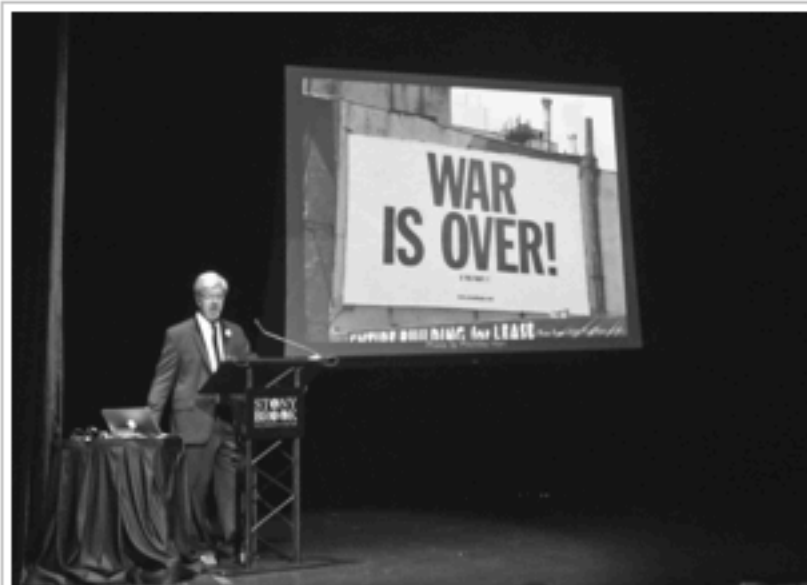
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## Imagine Peace 1966 - 2011 Yoko Ono's Art Exhibition & Lecture University Art Gallery, Staller by Yuki Kuang



Professor Kevin Concannon, Wang Center Theatre

Photo by Adam Sue

In New York City during the fall of 2008, billboards spanning Times Square in bold saying: "WAR IS OVER!" with smaller words "if you want it" under it, in simple black and white, appeared. This billboard campaign for peace by John Lennon and Yoko Ono became a phenomenon during the Vietnam War and has even become somewhat of a permanent mantra now as a legacy to Lennon and Ono's mission for world peace.

For those of you who are not avid Beatles fans, Yoko Ono was the wife of the late John Lennon, a co-founder of one of the world's most influential bands, who was assassinated in 1980. She is also a conceptual artist that started her career in Japan, exploring mediums of art, music, and writing and is most revered as a peace activist along with her late husband.

As a supplement in conjunction with the exhibition: Yoko Ono Imagine Peace 1966-2011, showcasing some of Ono's most recent memorable works now curated in the Staller Center, a multimedia lecture was given by Kevin Concannon; a fan of the Beatles since he was a child and the director of the School of Visual Arts at Virginia Tech. In Concannon's multimedia medley, the lecture panned out a biography of the couple's mission for peace, narrating a course of several accounts from Ono about her works and also Ono's rise to fame and follow-up on her solo career. An exploration of Ono's work was given through a series of short clips and a chronological oration of Ono's and Lennon's other peace campaigns.

Originally in 2007, an art exhibition of Yoko Ono's work by the Myers School of Art was first set in The University of Akron and has since been traveling around other universities across the state. Now, marking its first tour, "Yoko Ono Imagine Peace" banners can be seen on the face of Staller. The exhibition is scheduled to run through October 15th, located in the University Art Gallery in the Staller Center.

Walking into the showcase, the pristine and soothing pastels and white in the room create an artful atmosphere conveying a peaceful ideal. In this exhibit, an enlarged white chess set is positioned in the center of the room, maps of the world on one wall of the room, t-shirts of the "War Is Over!" campaign is encased, a wishing tree in a corner, and several selected pictures of John Lennon and Yoko herself and several other art works in a photographic medium or ink are displayed on the walls.

Not only does the cultivation of these pieces accentuate the color scheme of the room, the tact of understanding these various pieces is the delicacy and subtle hints of purity under-toning peace. For example, the interactive monochromatic chess set allows spectators to play although there are no opposing sides. Here, a message of play it by trust is conveyed because there is no differentiation between opposing sides.

It was explained in its manifest. Imagine Peace quests for action – it's time for change. It was a movement that is a happening that involved the interaction between the art pieces and their perceivers, and it only takes one to carry its mission for peace.