

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## ***Iraqimemorial.org***



Chuck Chaney, *One Was Too Many*, Installation View, 2009

**September 9 –  
October 22, 2011**

**Opening reception:  
Friday, September 9, 6 – 8 pm**

**EFA Project Space**  
323 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10018  
between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues  
[www.efanyc.org](http://www.efanyc.org)

Gallery Hours:  
Wed through Sat, 12-6 pm  
T. 212-563-5855,  
[projectspace@efanyc.org](mailto:projectspace@efanyc.org)

**Organized by:** Joseph DeLappe

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What is *iraqimemorial.org*?

*iraqimemorial.org* is a participation-based conceptual project launched in 2007 as an internet platform for artists, designers, and architects to propose concepts for memorials to the unrecognized civilian casualties incurred during the ongoing conflict in Iraq. Existing as an open call and growing archive of ideas and works, *iraqimemorial.org* is an effort initiated by one individual to call upon the collective creative community to consider the cost of war from all sides. Over the four years of the project's existence the site has evolved to feature over 175 speculative memorial concepts and documentation of a variety of completed memorial projects.

Conceived of by media artist Joseph DeLappe, *iraqimemorial.org* was initially created in reaction to the World Trade Memorial Competition website launched in 2004 to commemorate “the thousands of innocent men, women and children murdered by terrorists.” The contrast between the attention paid to the 9/11 victims and the estimated 100,000 to 1 million innocent civilian deaths as a result of the “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” prompted DeLappe to ask: “Who is remembered? Who is mourned? Who is responsible? How do we, as artists, choose to respond?”

From September 9 through October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, EFA Project Space presents an exhibition of proposals selected out of the pool that now exist on the *iraqimemorial.org* site. The proposal guidelines encourage participants to use a wide range of locations and mediums to create collective memory and unity, drawing upon traditional and expanded ideas of memorial. The exhibition on display at EFA presents proposals selected by two juror's reviews in 2008 and 2009 as well as more recent projects that have been uploaded to the site. Featured projects span a range of creative practices including: architecture, social media, geomapping, performance, video and the visual arts.

Although, many of these proposals may never be fully realized, they are intended to facilitate a process for the expression of memorial concepts as a collective, networked, creative act of remembrance that takes place in the present. This platform enables the creative community to conceptualize artistic means for reflection and recognition of the true impact of the war in Iraq.

DeLappe describes the work in the show as a “call to take responsibility, to recognize the humanity of those we have died and to validate the memory of the distant other.”

**Participating artists:** Tyler Adams, Vincent Akuin & Michael Manalo, Jorge Aldea, Tony Allard, Mehedi Amin, kenAR AEC & Team, Nadia Awad, Bill Balaskas, Joshua Berger, Chuck Chaney, Joseph Choma, Ivan Contreas Rubio, Naja + deOstos, Peter Di Salvo, Rodrigo Donoso, Carla Drago, Rob Duarte, Hakki Erol, Al Fadhil, Susanne Fasbender, Liz Filardi & Erik Burke, Sara Fiore, Nestor Armando Gil, Amro Hamzawi, Linda Hesh, Jona Hoier & Andreas Zingerle, Peter Janssen & Ward Janssen, Suzanne Kanatsiz, Athanasia Karaioannoglou, Matt Kenyon & Doug Easterly, Lynn Marie Kirby, Simon Kuntze-Fechner & Eddie Pinaud, Paula Levine, Patrick Lichty, Megan Mailloux, Alban Mannisi, Cat Soergal Marshall, Stephen Mundwiler & Cara Lee, Yaniz Ophir & Gila Fakterman, Farid Rakun, Julio Ramirez, Bekim Ramku, Rashad Salim, Andrea Stanislav, Erin Finch Stevens, Ehren Tool, Jack Toolin, Mark Tribe, Werryson Wijaya, Geri Wittig, Alyssa Wright, Sayoko Yoshida.

### **Related events:**

#### **Performances**

A number of performances by *iraqimemorial.org* artists will take place during the opening and throughout the show: **Jack Toolin** will be collecting photos of participants for *My Space for Your Life*, an ongoing creation of Facebook pages for deceased Iraqi civilians. The profiles, which are complete with details of the individual’s death, use photos of volunteer participants as stand-ins. And **Chuck Chaney** will perform the durational *One was Too Many*, where, both alone and by enlisting the help of others, the artist folds many tiny tissues in the representation of a flag folding ceremony—each piece is both a relic and a participant in a site specific sculpture.

Additionally, **Mark Skwarek** and **John Craig Freeman** will premiere *The U.S./Iraq War Memorial*, an augmented reality public art project, which allows the public to view 3D caskets representing losses on both sides of the conflict at various GPS locations across the northeastern United States, using iPhone or Android mobile phone applications.

### **Panel Discussion:**

#### ***iraqimemorial.org - On the Efficacy of Creative Remembrance***

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30pm, EFA Project Space

The panel discussion will be moderated by project director and exhibition curator Joseph DeLappe and include juror Yaelle Amir, and artists Wafaa Bilal, Matt Kenyon and Sayoko Yoshida. A wide-ranging discussion will ensue regarding the efficacy of the conceptualization and realization of contemporary memorials, monuments and counter-monuments to the victims of war. How do we critically assess the effect of a project such as *iraqimemorial.org*? What are the pitfalls and possibilities of developing DIY memorial projects?

Dates for performances will be made available soon. Please contact [projectspace@efanyc.org](mailto:projectspace@efanyc.org) for questions regarding upcoming programs.

## About the curator:

**Joseph DeLappe** is a Professor of the Department of Art at the University of Nevada where he directs the Digital Media program. Working with electronic and new media since 1983, his work in online gaming performance and electromechanical installation have been shown throughout the United States and abroad - including exhibitions and performances in Australia, the United Kingdom, China, Germany, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada. In 2006 he began a project: *dead-in-iraq*, to type consecutively, all names of America's military casualties from the war in Iraq into the America's Army first person shooter online recruiting game. He has lectured throughout the world regarding his work, including most recently at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He has been interviewed on CNN, NPR, CBC, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and on The Rachel Maddow Show on Air America Radio. His works have been featured in the New York Times, The Australian Morning Herald, Artweek, Art in American and in the 2010 book from Routledge entitled *Joystick Soldiers The Politics of Play in Military Video Game*.

**For press inquiries, please contact Michelle Levy at: [michelle@efanyc.org](mailto:michelle@efanyc.org)**

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**EFA Project Space**, a program of the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, was launched in September 2008 with a focus on the investigation of the creative process, aiming to provide dynamic exchanges between artists, cultural workers, and the public. The Project Space presents exhibitions and programs in collaboration with a diverse range of organizations, curators and artists to provide a comprehensive and critical perspective on creative practices. A major aspect of the program's development is ongoing outreach to the myriad individuals and institutions effectively shaping culture today.

**The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)** is a 501 (c) (3) public charity. Through its three core programs, EFA Studios, EFA Project Space and the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. [www.efanyc.org](http://www.efanyc.org)

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**efa project space**

A Program of the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts

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