

Contact: Mark Donfried
Phone: +49 30 2360 7680
Email: press@culturaldiplomacy.org
Address: Kurfürstendamm 207-8, Berlin

Contact: US Embassy Press Office
Phone: +49 30 8305 2164
Email: press@usembassy.de

PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)
Berlin, 9th September 2010



Floodwall: Art Exhibition of Jana Napoli in Berlin
Drawer Speaks – New Orleans Five Years Later

Free, September 10 – October 15, 2010
on Board of the KURIER Ship

Berlin – **Floodwall**, a site-specific art installation from New Orleans composed of 380 drawers that artist Jana Napoli rescued from the debris of Hurricane Katrina, will be presented in Berlin from September 10th to October 15th. Installed on the 1920s “Kurier” ship moored at several locations on the Spree, the exhibition will visit different neighbourhoods across the city. **Floodwall** is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, New Orleans artist Jana Napoli, and the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and presents the Berlin public with an installation that murmurs with the voices and stories from New Orleans.



Five years after Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans, the city is still undergoing a painful rebuilding process. The physical scars of a disaster that cost 1836 lives, caused \$90 billion damage, and displaced 1.3 million people are slowly healing; the impact on society, families and livelihoods runs much deeper. Ms. Napoli painstakingly recorded the owner and location of each of the 380 drawers comprising the installation, bringing the stories of everyday citizens affected by the disaster

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

Ku'damm Karree (3rd Floor - Hochhaus)
Kurfürstendamm 207-8, D- 10719 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2360 7680 Fax: +49 (0) 302360 76811
E-Mail: info@culturaldiplomacy.org
Web: www.culturaldiplomacy.org

Embassy of the United States of America

Pariser Platz 2
D- 14191 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2386290
Web: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/>

into the exhibition space. The artefacts explore themes of displacement and return, and underscore the role of art and culture in the recovery process.

What would you take with you?

The exhibition will be complemented by two youth-focused components: **Drawer Speaks** – an art outreach program – and **Youth Dance Challenge for Solidarity**. Drawer Speaks asks Berlin and Brandenburg school students to take a cardboard box, imagine that it is a personal drawer, and illustrate five things that they would neither want to lose nor be discarded and exposed on the street. As contributors, an image of the student and his/her drawer will be uploaded to the **Drawer Speaks** project website and interactive Floodwall Map, as a sign of solidarity with the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters around the world. **Youth Dance Challenge for Solidarity** organized by the New Orleans based artist and member of the board of directors of YA/YA Inc. (Young Aspirations/Young Artists) Carlos Neville will invite young people from across Berlin to take part in street dance workshops culminating in a public break dance challenge on the streets of Berlin.

An Introduction to the Artist – Jana Napoli

Jana Napoli was born and raised in New Orleans and continues to live there. Trained as a painter, Napoli is a mixed-media artist and a creative entrepreneur deeply concerned with civic and community engagement. In 1988, she founded the internationally acclaimed non-profit arts and social service organization, **YA/YA Inc. (Young Aspirations/Young Artists)**, whose mission it is to empower creative young people to become successful adults. Ms. Napoli served as its full-time Creative Director for twelve years. Ms. Napoli has exhibited around the world, including at **Ground Zero in Manhattan**, and has received numerous awards for her work, among them the Oprah Winfrey **“Use your life award”** (2002) and a **President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities award** (1999). Floodwall continues her long-standing dedication to the intersection of art and community-building and also integrates the themes of the unspoken and the unseen that are part of her own artistic preoccupations.

Program Agenda

In addition to the **Floodwall** exhibition, the following events are open to the public to attend free of charge:

- **Floodwall Exhibition Opening Event**
(September 10, 2010, starting at 18.30. Location: Kurier ship, Fischerinsel, intersection of Inselstr./Märkisches Ufer, 10179 Berlin)
Featuring remarks by artist Jana Napoli and ICD Director Mark Donfried among others, followed by live musical performances.
- **Floodwall Itinerant Exhibition (September 10 – October 15, various locations)**
Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-18:00. See www.floodwall-berlin.de for maps.
September 10th
Kurier-Schiff (Kurier ship)
Fischerinsel, intersection Inselstr./Märkisches Ufer
10179 Berlin

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

Ku'damm Karree (3rd Floor - Hochhaus)
Kurfürstendamm 207-8, D- 10719 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2360 7680 Fax: +49 (0) 302360 76811
E-Mail: info@culturaldiplomacy.org
Web: www.culturaldiplomacy.org

Embassy of the United States of America

Pariser Platz 2
D- 14191 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2386290
Web: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/>

September 11th -16th
Schiffbauerdamm 15
10117 Berlin

September 17th – 30th
Labels 1 und 2
Strahlauer Allee 12
10245 Friedrichshain
030/2360823-30

October 1st -15th
Kurier-Schiff (Kurier ship)
Fischerinsel, intersection Inselstr./Märkisches Ufer
10179 Berlin

- **Floodwall Exhibition Closing Event**
(Finissage, October 15, 2010, starting at 18.30. Location: Kurier ship, Fischerinsel, intersection of Inselstr./Märkisches Ufer, 10179 Berlin)

The exhibit and events are **open to the public to attend free of charge**; visitors are encouraged to drop by the exhibit anytime during opening hours (**Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00-18:00**). Participants in Drawer Speaks and the Youth Dance Challenge for Solidarity will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. The participants of the arts outreach program will be drawn from schools across Berlin and Brandenburg, ensuring that the participants represent the area in all its wonderful diversity.

If you would like to be added to a guest list, propose a workshop or event, or wish to arrange a group visit of the exhibition please contact ICD at floodwall@culturaldiplomacy.org or +49 30 2360 7680.

Additional resources/contact information

Further information, maps and directions for the Floodwall exhibition in Berlin and the related components can be found under www.floodwall-berlin.de.

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

Ku'damm Karree (3rd Floor - Hochhaus)
Kurfürstendamm 207-8, D- 10719 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2360 7680 Fax: +49 (0) 302360 76811
E-Mail: info@culturaldiplomacy.org
Web: www.culturaldiplomacy.org

Embassy of the United States of America

Pariser Platz 2
D- 14191 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30 2386290
Web: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/>