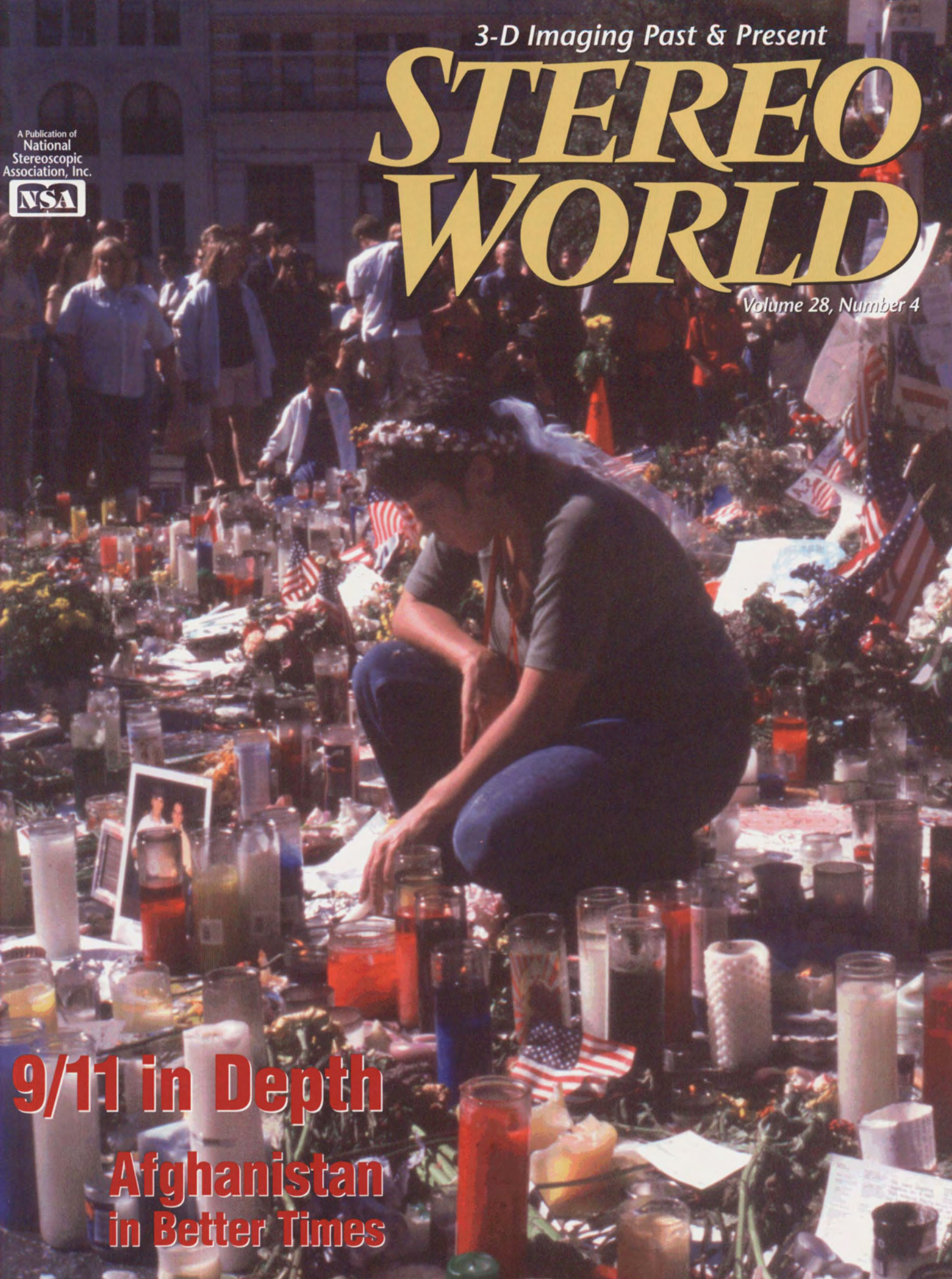


3-D Imaging Past & Present

STEREO WORLD

Volume 28, Number 4

A Publication of
National
Stereoscopic
Association, Inc.



9/11 in Depth
Afghanistan
in Better Times

STEREO WORLD

A Publication of
National Stereoscopic Association, Inc.



Volume 28, Number 4
2001

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Front Cover:

In the days following September 11, 2001, this woman came to tend the candle shrine in New York's Union Square Park for several days on end. The most deadly terrorist attack in history brought reactions ranging from the best to the worst of human emotions and actions but in New York itself, the most visible responses were the missing person appeals and memorials, as in this stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz. More coverage of the destruction and the aftermath, by six stereographers, appears in his feature article "Documenting 9/11 in Depth".

Back Cover:

Keystone No. 38411/1173, "Afghanistan - A Jewelry Store, Kandahar." This is one of several little known views from Keystone's Geography Unit No. 35 covering Afghanistan. Cold war era interest in a country bordering the Soviet Union may have prompted its 1955 publication, ending Afghanistan's nearly 100 years of neglect by the major stereoview companies. The girl's wistful expression inspires curiosity about her fate in the much harder years to come. See "Afghanistan in Better Times" on page 20.



Documenting 9/11 in Depth

by Sheldon Aronowitz

When catastrophic events are portrayed on television, they usually appear much worse than they really are. I remember passing through a neighborhood a few years ago which was reportedly flooded out. When I was unable to find the affected area I asked the local residents, and after many inquiries, one person directed me to the area in question.

What appeared on television to be a city under water turned out to be a few inches of water in a one-block area. More times than not, the actual damage bears little resemblance to the reported damage.

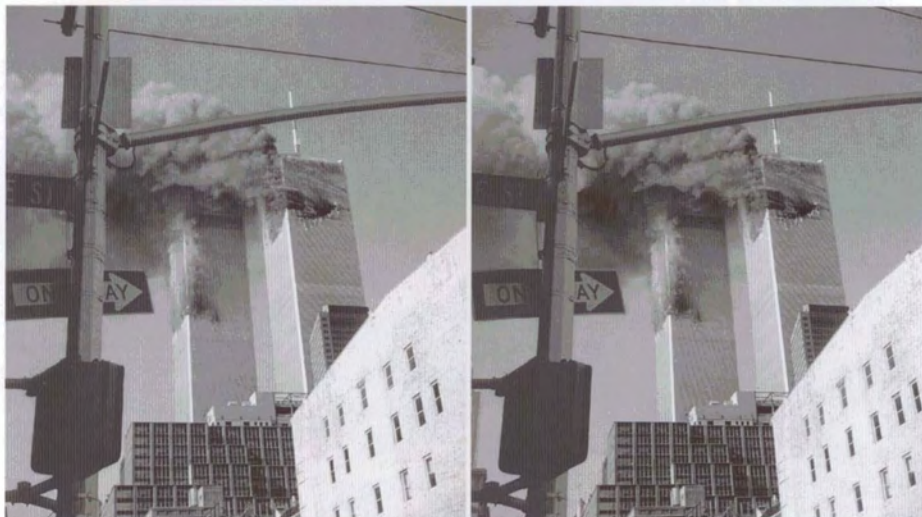
The events of September 11, 2001, however, are of the opposite extreme. As horrific and devastating as this tragedy appeared on television, that bore little resemblance to the damage as actually witnessed firsthand. I can not even begin to describe the utter devastation, which my mind still has difficulty accepting. The actual physical damage was secondary to the smell and "feel" of the air,

The towers of the World Trade Center as seen from a tour boat in 1996. Overwhelming even by New York standards, they had become tourist photo landmarks soon after completion in 1973. (Stereo by George Themelis.)



The huge complex of buildings and plazas that made up the World Trade Center included a number of large pieces of sculpture. Examples like this (as seen in July of 2000) are now crumpled masses of metal set aside with other pieces of the center in a New Jersey landfill. (Stereo by George Themelis.)





.....
The burning towers from Church Street and Reade. Stereographer Brian Loube's TDC Vivid was loaded with Scala black & white slide film when he learned of the disaster in progress (see side bar). ©2001 Brian Loube.



.....
NYC motorcycle officer wearing a respirator, September 13, 2001. Over his shoulder smoke rises from the site of the disaster. Looking South on the West Side Highway between Harrison Street and North Moore Street. (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



.....
Liberty Street between Broadway and Church Street, looking west. Building at right is One Liberty plaza, which was also damaged. (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)

the mood of the people, the grime and dust, the sadness, the loss of life, etc. It was like nothing I have ever witnessed. All the concrete, glass, etc., was pulverized into dust—220 stories turned into dust covering everything in its path—roads, buildings, everything—completely covered.

All that was left was 16 acres of twisted, jagged metal, cables, and wiring, ten stories high and weighing over one million tons. As of this writing, almost two months later, it is still burning! Underneath this were about 3,000 bodies. In addition to the two World Trade Center Towers, other nearby

Looking north on Greenwich Street, one block from the WTC showing some of the damage. Only after four weeks were some of the vantage points open to the public. However, only those with credentials were allowed to photograph, and sometimes not even then. Showing 3-D pictures to the Police and National Guard sometimes paved the way for me to shoot a stereo or two.

(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Smoke from the burning debris as seen from Liberty State Park in New Jersey. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



National Guard keeping order a few blocks from the WTC at the West Side Highway and Chambers St. Their function was to let only authorized vehicles and personnel through. Most roads within a half-mile radius of WTC remained closed for 2 months, and then slowly the radius shrank. The roads directly around the WTC were to remain closed for close to a year. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)

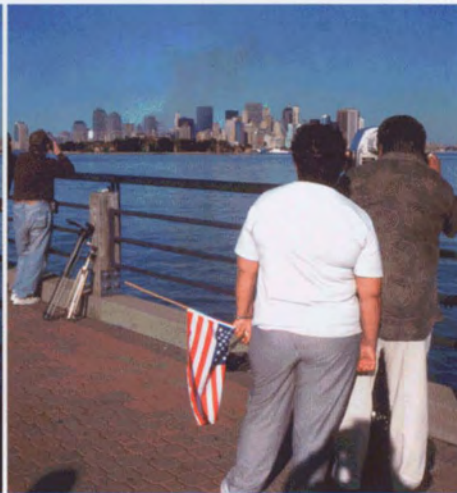


Police keeping the crowd (and stereographers) in check at the West Side Highway and Chambers St. Smoke can be seen over WTC ruins, still burning after 2 weeks. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)





With a bullhorn and a no nonsense attitude, this National Guardsman keeps back the crowd. Heavy smoke obscures Ground Zero behind him. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Looking at the changed skyline from Liberty State Park in New Jersey through the same coin operated binoculars that tourists had focused on the Twin Towers only days before. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)

buildings were also completely destroyed, including the adjacent Marriott Hotel. A few buildings that stood were in danger of

collapse, some which have since collapsed. Still others remained as burned out structures of twisted metal, soon to be demolished.

“...Something told me to just hold my camera over my head and shoot.”

by Brian Loube

The World Trade Center was the crown jewel of my neighborhood—almost every walk I took brought me through it. I went to the bank there, I bought my bread there, and, once or twice on a warm summer night, I kissed a girl there, standing by the Hudson River with the massive towers patiently glimmering over our heads. My neighborhood was good, it was safe; I felt privileged to live in Tribeca. As I slept on September 10, I could never have dreamed the next day the world would change, thousands would lose their lives down the street from me, and I would be put out of my home as a war refugee.

I awoke that morning to a phone call—the buildings were on fire. I flipped on the TV and saw the video of the

airplane as I quickly dressed, then I grabbed my camera and went outside. It was chaos—fear, confusion, bewilderment, people everywhere. Watching the disaster unfold I tried to minimize it in my mind. They’ll get out, I hoped....but after just a few minutes, the reality set in. It became worse and worse, and as I walked closer to the Towers, general panic increased. Suddenly, I was caught in a stampeding crowd screaming, “Run! Run!” as they raced away from the buildings. Even the police had fear on their faces.

When the first Tower collapsed, something told me to just hold my camera over my head and shoot. I was surprised the pictures came out at all, because I hadn’t set the exposure or focused the lens.

Prayer stations like this quickly appeared all over the city. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Shrine in Washington Square Park. This park and Union Square Park had the most impressive shrines, which remained undisturbed for a few weeks. When the Parks Department started to remove them, most were replaced within hours. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)




Many suffered structural or other damage and may or may not survive. It is expected to take at

least a year to clean up, and years more to rebuild.

There were over 20,000 people left unemployed due to the

After the disaster, for two months I worked with a Red Cross program making hot meals at a local restaurant for the Ground Zero rescue workers. During that time, many people who saw my 3-D slides were moved by the immersive quality and wanted to own them, which inspired me to print an edition of antique stereoscope-format cards. When I wasn't working in the kitchen, I was at my computer scanning and retouching the photographs that make up the 12 views.

[The set of 12 full size stereoviews includes shots of the towers burning, the collapse of the south tower, and later work at Ground Zero. They can be seen as anaglyphs or purchased by visiting:

<http://www.brianloube.com/9-11-3d/page01.htm> .] 



"September 21, Tower 2 Wreckage" is No. 10 from the stereoview card packet "9/11 3D"

©2001 Brian Loube



.....
Teddy bear shrine in Battery Park City, an area built on fill excavated during construction of the World Trade Center. The shrine was dedicated to the many children who lost a parent or other family member in the disaster.
 (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



.....
Rector Street. Many of the streets near the WTC were dug up to repair all the damaged underground cables, water mains, steam lines, telephone lines, power lines, etc. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



.....
Street and utilities repair required pedestrians to walk single file in some places. Note the signs warning against photography. This was prevalent at many locations. No defensible reason was ever given for the inconsistent ban on amateurs taking pictures blocks from Ground Zero. Looking west on Rector Street approaching Greenwich Street.
 (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



hundreds of businesses unable to function, and many are still seeking employment. Thousands of families were left homeless due to evacuation, and had to live in shelters with nothing but what they had on them when they left their homes. Some were able to return to their homes within weeks, some after months, and some not at all. And the homeless and jobless were the lucky ones! So many thousands more were not so lucky.

One would be hard pressed to not have lost a friend, acquaintance, husband, wife, child, parent or relative. I can safely say that virtually everyone either knew or knew of someone who was so

affected. There have been positive aspects though. We were reminded how precious life is, how important family is, how trivial most of our problems really are. We have learned what is really important in life. We have learned the importance of helping others. We have learned the meaning of heroism, for out of this horror emerged acts of heroism the likes of which have never before been witnessed. Coworkers risking their lives helping others to escape; firemen, police, and emergency workers running into and up the World Trade Center as thousands were running out, even after the collapse of the first tower, most never to make it out alive.

Looking West on
closed, dust covered
Dey Street from
Broadway.

(Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



As the weeks passed, streets
closer to the ruins slowly
opened up allowing busi-
nesses like this Chinese
restaurant to reopen. The
dome-like structure at the
far end of the street (looking
west on Dey St.) is the dam-
aged shell of the Winter
Garden, an atrium located
between the two buildings of
the World Financial Center,
which survived with dam-
age. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Camera store on
Chambers Street, a few
blocks north east of the
WTC, selling pictures of
tragedy. They had over
500 pictures, which
some unscrupulous
people bought, copied and
resold as their
own. (Stereo by Sheldon
Aronowitz.)



West Street and Vesey,
usually packed with
traffic, became a mar-
shaling area for crews
working the disaster.
Taken from a rooftop
looking south on West
Street. (Stereo by
John J. Zelenka.)





.....
 Victim's stories were being recorded in Union Square Park, possibly for a future book. This man was describing his escape from the WTC—note his injured right hand. The photo on his cap is of the burning towers.
 (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



.....
 Police with a search and rescue dog taking a break in a command center located in Stuyvesant High School.
 (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



.....
 With smoking ruins and emergency tents in the background, a woman works on a video of the event. Looking South along the West Side Highway. (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)

The New York City Fire Department lost more men in one hour than the total lost in its entire history. Then there were the rescue workers who worked day and night for weeks in the hopes of finding trapped victims alive under the rubble. It would be nearly

impossible for any one photographer, or even a small group of photographers, to adequately document this tragedy. John Zelenka and I have done the best we could to record some of the many aspects of this terrible event in the days and weeks that followed, the

Stacked remains of two burned cars drew the attention of photographers. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Police presence preventing onlookers from getting near the ruins. The shell of the WTC is visible behind the fence. Looking west on Fulton Street, where the city was later to build a viewing bridge/platform. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Police provided protection for Muslim groups and individuals. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Remains of the south tower (the first to fall) through the foul smoke and haze from Liberty Street, near Broadway, looking north west. Heavy equipment parked in front of One Liberty Plaza (right) waits to move in. (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)





One of hundreds of Police and Fire Vehicles damaged, many beyond recognition. There were also thousands of personal vehicles completely destroyed.

(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Volunteers at Christopher Street and West Side Highway, a few blocks north of the WTC. They stood there with their signs day and night, thanking the police, firemen, rescue workers, truck drivers, etc., as they left the WTC site.

(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)

devastation being only a small part of the entire story. As with our *Times Square New Years Eve* View-Master packet, we did not come into this as a joint effort.

I first met John close to midnight on New Years Eve, 2000, in Times Square. I was there shooting for the View-Master packet when I noticed another 3-D photographer,

From A Brooklyn Rooftop

by Joe Pedoto

I was at home reading when I looked out our living room window and saw what at first appeared to be a dark cloud hovering near the WTC. I got up to take a closer look (with glasses on) and then realized the sickening truth: the Twin Towers were on fire! I ran to the roof of our building here in Park Slope—we have an excellent view of Lower Manhattan—then I rushed back down to the apartment, grabbed my camera and tripod and ran back up.

Details on the worsening disaster were provided by a scattering of people on nearby roof tops; someone had the foresight to bring a radio along to follow the news broadcasts. I watched in horror as the fire spread down the sides of the towers, knowing that even under the best evacuation scenario some people are left behind. Now it

seemed my whole body was reacting to this nightmare. I thought for a few moments I might be sick.

Then the impossible happened: the first tower fell. The smoke and dust cloud that arose obscured all detail from my vantage point, and with small white particles raining down I decided to get off the roof and back inside.

This image is one of a series of stereo pairs I captured on Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001. I was shooting from the roof of our 5-story building, using a Nikon 990 digital camera with a 2X telephoto lens and a slide bar.

The city I woke up in on Tuesday, Sept. 11 is not the same place I went to sleep in that night. And this city, and the country, will never be the same again. ☹☹

.....
 Television teams from all over the world could be found broadcasting or taping at many locations throughout New York City, here in Union Square Park. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



.....
 The ashy grimy dust that can be seen in this car not only covered everything within a 5-10 block radius of the WTC, but also penetrated every nearby apartment and office. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



so naturally we started talking. At a New York Stereo Society meeting a few weeks later, I saw John again and overheard him talking about his plans for a View-Master packet on Times Square New Years Eve. I

approached John and explained that I had plans to produce a View-Master packet. After some discussion we decided it would be best to do this project as a joint effort. Since we both concentrated on

.....
 The burning towers shortly before the collapse of the south tower as seen from Brooklyn. Moving a flat digital camera on a slide bar produced no detectable stereo separation, but shifting winds provided a sequential hyperstereo of the smoke that soon drove the photographer inside. (Stereo by Joe Pedoto.)





.....
This woman came to tend the candle shrine at Union Square Park for several days on end and appeared more than once in media coverage of the aftermath of the disaster. Her relationship to any victim of the attack is unknown, but her devotion to the memorial was poignantly evident.

(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



.....
Supplies for volunteers stacked near the Jacob Javits Convention Center, 11th Ave between 34th & 35th Streets, looking west.

(Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



.....
Vendors quickly appeared all over New York City, profiting from anything connected to the WTC or to the public's reaction to the attacks.

(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)

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Our documentation of the World Trade Center aftermath also differed. John started documenting more of the devastation while I was documenting the shrines, firehouses and related events. We again realized that our photos complemented each other's and went into this venture together. It

is somewhat ironic that in much the same manner, we went from documenting the world's greatest and largest party to one of the world's largest single disasters. Given our obligation to our full time jobs and the extremely limited access to much of the aftermath, we nonetheless managed to capture the physical and emotional aspect of one of the worst days in our history.

Children's drawings and flowers at a firehouse a block off Broadway in the theater district. On the front of the fire truck are the words "Never Missed a Performance". Trained in high rise rescue, the firefighters immediately responded to the World Trade Center call, where many were lost. (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



One of the World Financial Center buildings visible through the haze above the shell of the once far taller WTC. (Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



This firehouse on Dwayne Street was seen inside and out in the astounding CBS special "9/11" Sunday, March 10, 2002. French documentary filmmakers Jules and Gedeon Naudet were already covering the firefighters of Engine 7, Ladder 1 when the towers were hit, shot tape inside Tower 1 as Tower 2 collapsed, and helped rescue efforts while taping at Ground Zero. Amazingly, everyone from this station closest to the WTC survived, but a memorial to other FDNY crews sprang up. (Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Only a handful of photographers were given access to Ground Zero, due primarily to it being a crime scene as well as a very dangerous place to be. First aid stations were set up at various Ground Zero locations just to attend to the numerous cuts and injuries suffered by the rescue workers. With so much razor sharp

steel covering the 16 acres, accidents were unavoidable. To allow photographers and the press directly in would have been to invite disaster. We did, however, with our press passes and perseverance, manage to get as close as was humanly possible. The pictures here represent a small portion of our efforts to document this event.



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This woman came to tend the candle shrine at Union Square Park for several days on end and appeared more than once in media coverage of the aftermath of the disaster. Her relationship to any victim of the attack is unknown, but her devotion to the memorial was poignantly evident.

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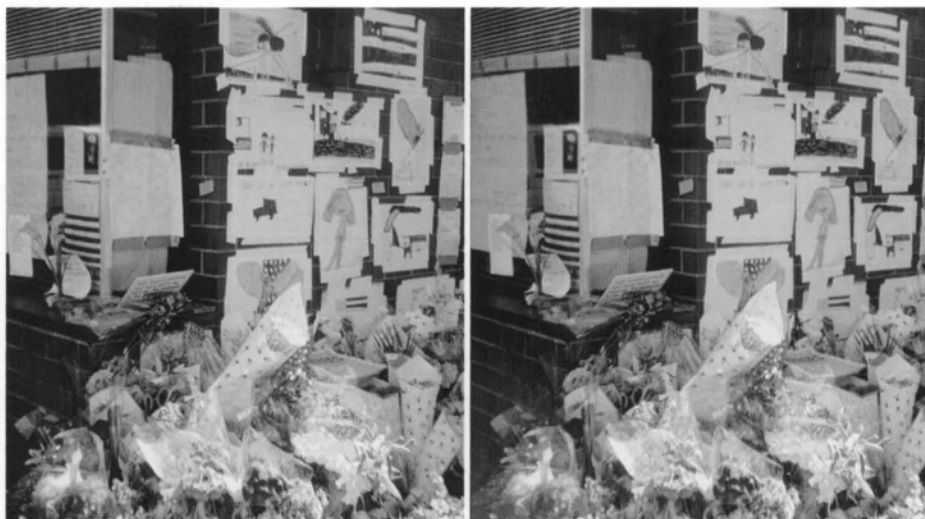
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One of thousands of missing posters put up by families of victims in the days after the disaster. This one was for Cantor Fitzgerald employee John Salamone, who worked on the 104th floor of Tower 1. He was one of 700 who were killed from that company alone. There were storefronts and walls which were completely covered by posters like this. Many families did not give up hope even after weeks.
(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



Capturing history with a small video camera, a man walks his bike past children's drawing of flags and notes on a Union Square Park fence.
(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)



One New Yorker's way of expressing his feelings and dealing with the tragedy. Broadway, two blocks east of the WTC.
(Stereo by Sheldon Aronowitz.)

Greg Dinkins, president of the New York Stereo Society, which meets quarterly at the Museum of Natural History in New York City, invited John and I, as a tribute, to give a 3-D presentation at the NYSS's meeting of October 13, 2001. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Museum of Natural History's Open House event and was therefore well

attended by both NYSS members and the general public. The presentation, edited by Greg Dinkins, was well received by all and was a very moving experience. A few weeks prior I had sent our slides to George Themelis for projection at the Ohio Stereo Society, where George told me they were also well received.

At 48th Street and 10th Ave. this solitary memorial honored Deborah A Welsh, a neighborhood icon and flight attendant on United Flight 93 which crashed in Pennsylvania.

(Stereo by John J. Zelenka.)



Flower, candle and photo shrines were not limited to New York and Washington D.C. This floral tribute to Daniel & David Brandhorst, killed on one of the planes flown into the WTC, was in front of a Los Angeles GAP store.

(Stereo by Susan Pinsky.)



Some of these images may be emotionally difficult to look at, while others may be inspiring and uplifting. It is important, hard as it may be for some, that we look, reflect, and remember. Only by never forgetting the events of September 11, 2001, can we maintain an effort to discover what must be learned, what must be changed, and what must be done to prevent anything like this happening again. I hope these 3-D images will

serve to honor the thousands who perished and keep their spirit alive.

I wish to thank the other NSA and NYSS members who have contributed their 3-D work, and whose names appear under their respective pictures. Thanks to Susan Pinsky and David Starkman for lending me their Yashica FX super 2000 "RBT like" camera, with 28-50 mm zoom lenses, as soon as they heard that I was documenting this disaster. 📷📷

Another Occasion to Reflect

I was born and raised in New York City. Lived here all my life. In the course of taking these images I had many occasions to reflect. As I searched for an image that would capture what I felt, I suddenly found myself crying. Or Praying. For at those moments the images came through the viewfinder and enveloped me in the smells and the smoke. The awful truth was a short walk before me. From the lost look on the exhausted rescue workers faces to the cuts and bruises on the dogs.

Yet as I walked away from the scene life began to look normal. Kids played, horns honked. But when I turned

around, that awful plume of smoke, rising day after day. Still I knew I should return to record the scenes I was seeing. So I did. All I ask of you who view these images, you who know all the facts by now and have instinctively followed your normal human curiosity. I humbly request for you at this time to take a moment of silence and say a private prayer for those who perished. And for those left behind who must rebuild their city, and themselves.

—John J. Zelenka 📷📷