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Anna Zorina Gallery is proud to announce its inaugural exhibition, "Heart of Art", a celebration of the resilience and creativity of New York through the equally dynamic and meaningful art that it inspires. "Heart of Art", will be an annual experience, each year bringing together a diverse and exciting group of gallery and invited artists who have something meaningful to express about this city.

This first exhibition marks, in its timing, several milestones in the New York art world: the amazingly swift recovery of the collective Chelsea gallery community from the disaster of Sandy; the hundred-year anniversary of the Armory Show, the exhibition that signaled and stimulated the onset of Modernism in America; and the twelve year anniversary of 9/11, the event that challenged and transformed all New Yorkers and changed the world.

The genesis for this exhibition began twelve years ago on that deceptively bright and lovely September day that so tested the fortitude and optimism of this city. One of the participating artists, Alexander Kaletski, a driving force behind the show, headed south that day from his uptown art studio as soon as he heard the World Trade Center had been hit. The subway took him halfway before all the lines were shut. He found a taxi and continued his journey, the driver weeping as they listened to the reports on his radio, but they were stopped near Houston Street. Alexander persevered on foot down West Broadway. The smoking towers were clearly visible. He was looking directly at them when they collapsed one after the other.

Kaletski was born in Russia soon after WWII. As a child he lived in a Moscow that was still filled with bombed out buildings. It was only as he watched the towers fall, that the memory of those surroundings came back. Deeply affected by that experience, Kaletski began a collaged painting *Red Alert*, using newspapers from those following weeks while the smoke still rose from the rubble at ground zero. Once the painting was completed he put the work away. It remained unseen until now. After twelve years, with One World Trade Center reaching completion, along with many other elements of the rebuilding, it felt right to bring the work out in a celebration reflecting the renewed optimism and unleashed energy of the city.

This exhibition is not about one person's experience but the collective rejuvenation of the New York spirit as expressed through art. That subject requires multiple viewpoints with different stylistic approaches. That is why we asked each artist participating if they would give us a work that spoke about the city they love, whether or not they currently reside here.

It is one of the unique realities of New York that it is a lodestar for many who live far away, radiating from its beating heart an almost irresistible attraction. Among the artists who feel this pull is Federica Marangoni, whose *Homeland* eloquently expresses her split allegiance between her native Venice and her adopted home of New York; Ted Dimond's layered paintings view the city from the air, his free flowing oil mirroring the swirling dynamism of the metropolis; Nate Burbeck's photorealist compositions initially seem to approach the city from more conventional views but actually find unexpected corners to explore in great detail; Shawn Ellison's gritty, textured, graffiti-like compositions seem excavated from the substance of the city; while Micha Patiniott paints the characters of the city with surreal humor and insight. Along with Alexander Kaletski, these artists find the living pulse of the city, creating together a sense of its vital, diverse, and resilient spirit.

New York is a city built on finance, ambition and power, but the heart of New York is its culture and the most unique expression of that culture is found in the art it inspires. Anna Zorina Gallery is committed to promoting the best of that art.

"Heart of Art" will on view from September 7 through October 19.