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Press Release

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YOKO ONO

Mending Peace

EXHIBITION: June 3 - July 1, 2006

OPENING: Friday, June 2, 8pm

Centre A is proud to present "Mending Peace," a solo exhibition by Yoko Ono, in conjunction with the World Peace Forum 2006, June 23-28, www.worldpeaceforum.ca, and explorASIAN 2006, www.explorasian.org. "Mending Peace" is curated by Alice Ming Wai Jim and accompanied by an illustrated exhibition booklet with an essay by Midori Yoshimoto, available mid-June.

Born in 1933 in Tokyo, Japan, and a resident of New York since the 1950s, Yoko Ono has long made influential contributions not only to the conceptual art and Fluxus movements through her instruction pieces, films, music, sculpture and performance art, but also to the international peace movement. The exhibition, "Mending Peace," brings together three works by Yoko Ono that speak to the theme of imagining peace.

SKY T.V. (1966)

Transmitting real-time images of the sky to a television set inside the gallery, *Sky T.V.* is one of the earliest video installations ever made and is Yoko Ono's only work in video art. Made shortly after the Sony Portapak was introduced on the market, the piece reflects Ono's conceptual approach to video in which the idea becomes the subject of work. In a sense, the work exists first and foremost as a public instruction to make possible an opportunity for "looking at the sky"—a gesture that seems particularly fitting in today's world of ubiquitous surveillance and concern for safe skies. The instruction for *SKY T.V.* is reproduced on Centre A's postcard for this exhibition.

MEND PIECE (1966)

The first materialization of *Mend Piece* was in a box of sanitary napkins that Yoko Ono sent to John Lennon before they were a couple. Inside the box was a "mend piece, a broken red cup for the recipient to mend." After 9/11, Yoko Ono devised *Mend Peace for the World* (changing the name of the piece) with the accompanying instruction: "broken dishes from around the world + materials to mend them. Keep adding more crockery as it gets fixed. Keep wishing while you mend." Audiences are invited to participate by mending broken pottery. Bring yours! The theme of this piece "is to mend," according to Yoko Ono. "It is an attempt to create a symbiotic mending between what you are mending—maybe a broken cup—and what you wish to mend. Like the world."

WISH TREE (1996)

Wish Tree, like *Mend Peace*, is also a participation piece. It consists of "a living tree + small pieces of paper, hole punch, pencils and string. Write down a wish and tie it onto the tree." Visitors are invited to write down their wishes on pieces of paper and tie them to trees in the gallery. At the end of the exhibition, all the collective wishes for peace will be saved and sent to New York to be included in the Tower of Peace that Yoko Ono will make in Reykjavík, Iceland.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WORLD PEACE FORUM 2006
VANCOUVER, CANADA 23-28 JUNE



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