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New Release

Stéphane Sednaoui

Search and Rescue at Ground Zero. September 12 – 16, 2001

Texts by Alice M. Greenwald, Mark Lubell, Michael Shulan, Stéphane Sednaoui
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Stunning archive documenting the first days of rescue before the terrible beauty of the unreal landscape of Ground Zero

It has been said that 9/11 is among the most photographically documented events in history. But, while photographs from the day of the attacks are multitudinous and ubiquitous, photos of the World Trade Center site in the immediate days after are exceedingly rare.
We are indebted to Stéphane Sednaoui, who felt compelled – not as a photographer but as a human being – to rush down, that afternoon, to what would soon come to be known as Ground Zero, hoping to volunteer in the search and rescue efforts underway. Over three nights, Sednaoui worked tirelessly along with thousands of other volunteers digging through the wreckage, desperately hoping to find survivors. He had brought along a small Ricoh camera, and in those moments when the workers would pause to listen for sounds that might help them locate a person who might have been trapped beneath a mountain of debris, he would take pictures.
Sednaoui's images, published here along with his e-mails in the aftermath of 9/11, are a unique and detailed document of Ground Zero in the days immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, and a stunning archive documenting the terrible beauty of that unreal landscape.

»I spent the nights of the 12th and 13th at Ground Zero helping the search and rescue teams dig and remove all the debris. There are probably 2,000 people down there – mostly firemen, policemen, army. We work on our knees, digging with our hands in the burned papers and the dust, removing huge pieces of metal and concrete. What you see on TV is the outside of it; the heart of the disaster is apocalyptic. It is madness. There is so much to do. We have been working around the edges of those two mountains of debris, where we still hope to find people alive.«
Excerpt of an email sent by Stéphane Sednaoui, Sat, 15 Sep 2001

Stéphane Sednaoui is a French photographer, director and producer. he has received critical acclaim for directing landmark videos with U2, Madonna, Björk, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, among others. His fashion and portrait photography has been published in Vogue Italia, Vanity Fair, the New York Times Magazine, Interview, and many others.
Phil Bicker, who joined TIME in 2010, curates LightBox: The 10 Best Pictures of the Week for the iPad edition and contributes as a photo editor to TIME and TIME.com.
Alice M. Greenwald has been the Director of the 9/11 Memorial Museum since 2006.
Michael Shulan has been creative director at National 9/11 Memorial Museum, New York, 2006–14.
Mark Lubell, former director of Magnum Photos, is executive director of New York's International Center of Photography (ICP).

More informations about the book:
http://www.stephanesednaoui.com/book_wtc_pdf_sedr

Exhibition
9/11 Memorial Museum, New York, 15.05.2014 – 15.05.2015

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Press images

1. Twin Towers during attack.
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2. Washington Street
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3. West Street and Liberty Street. Southwest Side of Ground Zero
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4. Greenwich Street and Liberty Street. South Side of Ground Zero
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5. Robert Wright, Tower Ladder 138, New York City Fire Department.
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6. James Drago, City of Mount Vernon Fire Department.
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8. O'Hara's Restaurant and Pub, Greenwich Street.
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9. Nick Burns, City of Warrior Fire Department.
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10. North Tower
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