



The Museum of the City of New York, founded in 1923 to collect the tangible evidence chronicling New York's almost 400 years, is attempting to respond to the World Trade Center tragedy on several levels. Our first step was to reach out to artist Tom Christopher, whose paintings have captured the dynamic drama of contemporary New York. Christopher's 2000 *New York Morning*, a 46" x 46" acrylic on canvas of the World Trade Center towers viewed through the Brooklyn Bridge, was scheduled for a show in Germany. At my request the painting was brought to our museum. There was a suggestion by some of the staff to change the title to *New York Mourning*. But this idea was soon discarded, as we comprehended the painting's expression of the beauty and hope of daybreak. *New York Morning* was hung in the museum's entrance rotunda and flanked with black draped tables on which memory books were placed, allowing visitors to share their thoughts. Rolls of paper with crayons and magic markers on another table encourage young and old to creatively express their feelings. The offerings have been uplifting and heart-rending.

The exhibition of *New York Morning* and the museum's collaboration with Tom Christopher has led to the "Art for America" project. This collaboration of Sotheby's, Christie's, Phillips de Pury & Luxembourg, Doyle, Guernsey, Lelands, and other auction houses and dealers will raise money for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's Twin Towers Fund, benefiting the families of some 400 members of New York City's uniformed services who have been lost. The auction of donated artwork, antiques, and celebrity collectibles from around the world is planned for November.