A chronology: 'New York, September 11'
Magnum photographers capture fiery climax and poignant aftermath of World Trade Center attack

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A hundred years ago, the world was mesmerized by the opening of the World Trade Center, a symbol of international commerce and progress. On September 11, 2001, the Twin Towers were destroyed in a terrorist attack, leaving a lasting impact on the world. In commemoration of this tragic event, Magnum photographers have captured the fiery climax and poignant aftermath of the World Trade Center attack.

At a glance
When: Until Oct. 11, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.
Where: Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave.
Information: 734-327-4560 or www.aadl.org

Arguably the world's most famous photo agency, Magnum was founded in 1947 by internationally renowned photojournalists Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger and David Seymour to give its members the ability to work where and as they choose. A unique cooperative, the agency runs offices in London, Paris, New York and Tokyo. Its almost 50 members strive to record all facets of the human condition upon the principle that the vision of every photographer is respected.

The display shows why Magnum's members are considered among the premier photographers in the world. It is a concise visual chronology of this dark day. From the impact of two Boeing 767's (American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175) slamming into the World Trade Center's twin towers to poignant memorials for the slain and missing, the exhibit's historical significance is equaled by these photographers' bravery racing to record one of the most tragic events in our country's recent past.

Featured Magnum photographers are Chien-Chi Chang, Bruce Davidson, Raymond Depardon, Paula Lupia, Bruce Gilden, Burt Glinn, David Alan Harvey, Thomas Hoepker, Richard Kalvar, Josef Koudelka, Hiroshi Kubota, Steve McCurry, Susan Meiselas, Gilles Peress, Eli Reed, Dennis Stock, Larry Towell and Alex Webb.

As the exhibit's display card tells us, the photographers just happen to be at the Magnum headquarters in Chelsea on Sept. 10 discussing cooperative policy. It's therefore pure happenstance that on the following day this clutch of accomplished photojournalists was concentrated quite literally within walking distance when the news first broke about aircraft slamming into New York City's tallest buildings.

In photographer Susan Meiselas' words, "Tuesday morning I headed out to meet an old friend for breakfast. Before I left, I heard a radio report about a plane hitting one of the World Trade Center towers. I couldn't conceive of it, and certainly had no sense of whether it was an accident or an attack. When I arrived at the diner, I saw the first TV images of the building on fire. I immediately ran back to my apartment and grabbed two cameras and a few rolls of film -- too few, as it turned out."

By contrast, colleague Larry Towell submits the following report: "I came to New York for a meeting at the Magnum..."