

Peace Angels Project

Lin Evola



Press Kit

The Peace Angels Project

Founded in 1992 by American contemporary artist, Lin Evola, the Peace Angels Project is a conceptual art project that serves as a reminder of the worldwide epidemic of violence and our responsibility as humans to create a better world, by using melted down contemporary weapons.

It is the intention of Evola to install 64' tall Peace Angel monuments globally, beginning with New York and Los Angeles. Composed of decommissioned nuclear stainless, street weapons and weapons of mass destruction, the monuments will serve their communities as symbols of peace. Weapons to be used for their construction are being requested globally through law enforcement, government and the media.

Evola's Renaissance Peace Angel stood 13' tall on Canal Street following the World Trade Center tragedy. This sculpture is widely remembered as serving as a symbol of hope for those affected. Since 2013, the RPA has been in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and was installed in the Fall of 2018.

In 2016, Evola announced her collaboration with renowned fashion and art photographer, Udo Spreitzenbarth to develop "The Reflection Series," a Peace Angels Project initiative. Revenue generated from these portraits will finance the substantial production costs, as well as help fund the overall mission of the Peace Angels Project - removing weapons from our communities.

The Peace Angels Project will bring people together in these complicated times. When we are faced with many divisions in our society, the Peace Angel Monuments unite all boundaries of race, gender, and national heritage by representing respect and equality. The monuments will stand tall to provide a positive affirmation of peace, hope and love for all people world-wide.

The Peace Angels Project is partnering with SA Recycling and Sims Metal Management for the USA Weapons Destruction Campaign. Sims Metal Management has stated: *"As a global company whose entire business is focused on making resources available for future use, Sims Metal Management is fully committed to seeking new ways to improve on our commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen. As part of that commitment, we have participated in the safe destruction and recycling of weapons provided to us from local law enforcement agencies. It is for this reason that Sims is proud to support the Peace Angels Project and partner in the broader USA Weapons Destruction Campaign."*

About the Artist:

Lin Evola



Lin Evola believes that art overcomes the constraints of the word, and the power of images can incite or inspire. Utilizing her skills as a conceptual artist, Evola creates inspirational images with the power to challenge us to put an emphasis on peace so that human beings can continue to exist. Her drawings, watercolors and sculptures tap into the life-affirming passions that bind humanity together, reminding us that we all have the capacity to interrupt the cycle of violence and transform it into a cycle of peace. The possibilities for each of us to build a more peaceful world are endless if we each embrace the expectation and moral fortitude to decisively work towards change.

Lin Evola began the Peace Angels Project in 1992 as an active art project that invites weapon donations, converting the once destructive armament materials into compelling images which provoke the possibilities of peace. During the more than twenty years of building the Peace Angels Project, creating art has been Evola's way of working out philosophical insights and foundational thoughts that have become actualized as the Peace Angels Project.

Evola's sculptures and paintings integrate symbols of both affirmation and challenge to reach beyond words and touch a place deep inside each of us. Her art pairs ancient symbols with weapons materials as she asks us to find common ground when we disagree, rather than to take up arms against one another. From primordial times to today, human beings have used symbols to represent prevailing cultural mores and expected standards for human behavior.

New York & Los Angeles



The Peace Angels Project is a global project that is committed to transforming weapons into Peace Angel monuments as symbols of peace. It is the intention of artist, Lin Evola, that the symbols promote kindness, compassion and good will. Evola proposes to install Peace Angel monuments in various cities globally.

New York and Los Angeles are the first megalopolis cities in America to receive the 64' tall monuments, which will be composed of decommissioned nuclear stainless, street weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

The New York Renaissance Peace Angel is a male Peace Angel, named for its reference to the Renaissance in art history, referring to humanity's renaissance over weapons of destruction. By magnetizing the weapons

through the media, transforming weapons into art in production and installing the icon of peace in perpetuity, the message of peace expands out exponentially.

"The Labyrinth" around the monument will incorporate a history of New York based upon both struggles and achievements in manifesting a city of leadership. Pertinent dates and occurrences will be etched onto a timeline to be walked on, measuring the contributions of our people who gave their heart and soul. Etched figures of those who have passed will be engraved on the wall behind their loved ones, as in long timepeace activist Yoko Ono with John Lennon behind her.

As sites are being distinguished in Lower Manhattan, weapon requests are being generated globally through the media, Law Enforcement and Government.

The California Peace Angel at Los Angeles will be composed of melted-down weapons; landmines, cluster bomb casings, street weapons and nuclear stainless steel. Glistening with a highly polished surface, the Peace Angel will hold three children with her left arm and her right held up in a symbolic gesture of protection and light. Rising symbolically from a base that has the City of Los Angeles Seal at the Center and images of weapons, the next level has two rows of 36 life sized sculptures of Humanitarians who have done "Extreme Good" during this time in human history.

Multiple sites in Los Angeles will be selected for Peace Angel sculptures.



Sputtered Portraits: The Reflection Series



Artist and Founder of the Peace Angels Project, Lin Evola has collaborated with renowned fashion and art photographer, Udo Spreitzenbarth to develop “The Reflection Series,” a Peace Angels Project initiative. Ten influential humanitarians and philanthropists will be invited to sit for portraits, transformed into super mirrors using titanium metal of mass destruction.

Each humanitarian and philanthropist’s portrait, captured by Spreitzenbarth, will be transformed by Evola and her team of technicians into a super mirror in a process known as “sputtering,” otherwise known as physical vapor deposition. The scientific method of image-making is achieved by transplanting molecules in a vacuum chamber to a substrate.

The portraits are expected to tour numerous venues around the world to further spread the power of peace and patronage.

In the Press

The New York Times



THE HUFFINGTON POST



Los Angeles Times

9/11 MEMORIAL

<https://www.911memorial.org/profile/1840256>

Lin Evola

New York NY United States



In 1992, Lin Evola founded the Peace Angels Project to address the epidemic of violence by reminding us of the responsibility we all share to create a better world, in part through efforts to reduce the flow of weapons to our streets and communities.

As an American contemporary Artist, Evola created the Project as a concept-driven, creative initiative that can both awaken us and stir us to action—sharing a life-affirming vision of Peace in our Time.

The weapons which are destroyed and then turned into Peace Angel monuments forward a legacy of peace to our children and to all future generations.

Evola's Renaissance Peace Angel is in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. The Renaissance Peace Angel stands, in perpetuity, for Life.

Photographer: Udo Spreitzenbarth



ART REVIEW CITY

November 24, 2020

Artist Q&A with Lin Evola



“Peace Sign”, watercolor, ink, and decommissioned nuclear stainless steel, 32 x 24 in | 81 x 61 cm, 2015

Why did you become an artist?

I learned to walk and talk at the same time that I began to draw, and I continued to make art as I grew up. At 10 years old my mother took a group of us children to The Art Institute of Chicago. I remember very distinctly how I felt when I looked up and witnessed huge paintings by Jackson Pollock and Robert Motherwell – which became known as Abstract Expressionism – hanging on all the walls around us. I felt like my skin was turned inside out. I knew who I was.

How is your work different than everything else out there?

Every artist discovers their own visual language that is based on how we see, how we hold our tools, and what tools we choose to make art. My art is produced partially or completely from metal from weapons. I use a lot of reflective surfaces to engage the viewer in reaching a conceptual interaction with the art itself.



Lin Evola, portrait by Udo Spreitzenbarth

What's different about your current body of work?

Visually my art adds information and layers of meanings, staying tight to the basic empowerment for humanity to build peace. Implementing physics, numbers, and writing, I use a tempo bringing the viewer from a microcosm to a macrocosm in vision. Are you looking at a microscopic image? Is it pulsating? Are you looking at outer space? The layouts of the Peace Signs take about a month. I mix my own paints from pigment, and often include the weapons metal in the ink.

What's coming up for you?

The Peace Angels Project is working on the 12 Peace Angels to be placed throughout Los Angeles. Culturally distinct, they are produced from decommissioned nuclear stainless steel, as well as indigenous weapons from source countries, and from that neighborhood with which the Peace Angel represents.

We are also working on the first 64 foot monument, created from 1 million weapons slated for downtown Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Peace Angel monument is connected to the 12 Peace Angels throughout Los Angeles and 1 in Washington, DC.

I have several art dealers – including [Robert Curcio](#) – who are looking for venues to offer art from the many years of drawing, painting, and sculpture that capture the essence of the struggle and grace of humanity moving from War to Conflict to Peace to Build and to Create. The Five Movements of Man are captured on drawings and on Sputtered Pieces that are produced from the most dangerous weapons on earth: decommissioned nuclear titanium.

What advice would you give to an artist just starting out today?

Stay true to yourself, follow your instincts, and keep making art.



“Renaissance Peace Angel”, bronze, decommissioned nuclear titanium, and street weapons, 11 ft | 3.35 m tall, 1995-1997 (Permanent Collection of The National September 11 Memorial & Museum)

When is a piece finished for you?

When it tells me. Art is engagement using materials on a surface. When the art is complete, it is present.

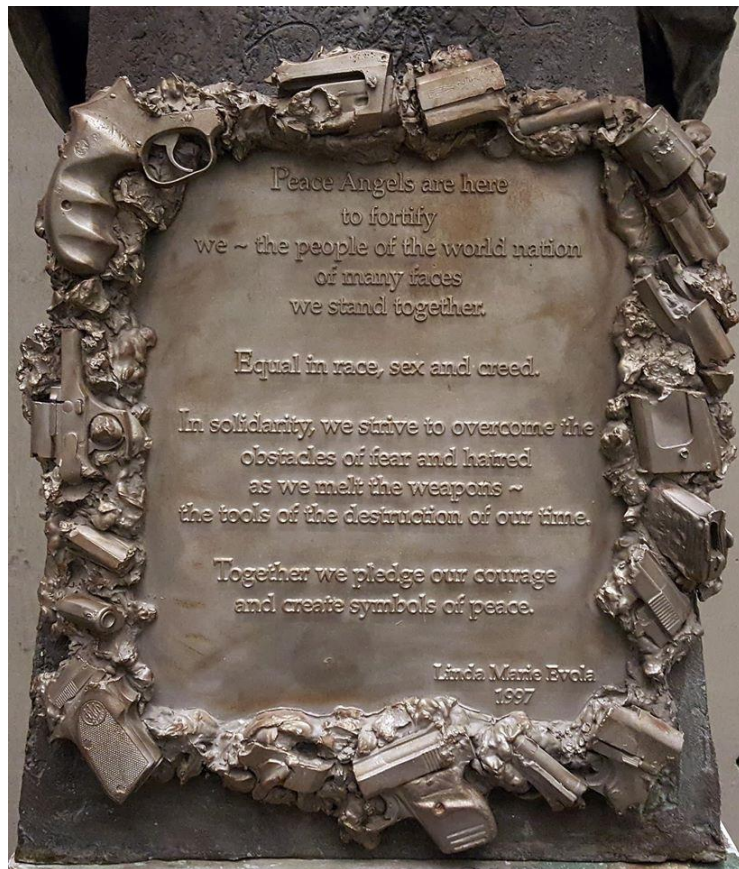
What are the influences and inspirations in your new works?

Humanity. I am interested in seeing the species of the Human Race move from conflict to cooperation. I am interested in witnessing the solid center of peace and protection.

Tell us about a few of your career highlights or moments that greatly affected your career?

When the Renaissance Peace Angel was installed in the permanent collection of The National September 11 Memorial & Museum, it became the first of the Peace Angels to be permanently installed in a museum of relevance that stands for making a space of beauty and empowerment on a base of violence.

I created the Peace Angels Project November 3, 1992. It took two years to write what would become known as the Peace Angels Project. The mission of the Peace Angels Project is to produce monuments created from active contemporary weapons on sites on earth that have experienced violence and transform the energy to a site of peace.



"Renaissance Peace Angel", bronze, decommissioned nuclear titanium, and street weapons, 11 ft | 3.35 m tall, 1995-1997 (Permanent Collection of The National September 11 Memorial & Museum)

To learn more about Evola and her work, please visit www.peaceangels.com.

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

November 26, 2019

Peace Angels Project Uses Melted Weapons for Angel Monuments



LOS ANGELES — Colette Miller painted wings in Los Angeles. Lin Evola is sculpting them.

The artist revealed her sketches for the Peace Angels Project. She is creating a 64 foot monument in Downtown Los Angeles, made out of melted weapons.

“I am fundamentally a conceptual artist, I use drawing I use painting, I use sculptures, I use what we’re doing now to implement the Peace Angels project,” Evola said.

The project will include 12 smaller Peace Angel sculptures, as well as the main monument in Downtown Los Angeles. Her use of melted weapons paints a clear picture: transforming the pain of violence, into a statement of peace.

“I receive all my weapons through law enforcement, the L.A. Sheriff’s Department has worked with us for four generations, law enforcement agencies such as the NYPD, also we work with the biggest recycling companies on Earth, Sims Metal Management, SA Recycling, they’ve already, for over 10 years, destroyed the weapons of the Peace Angels Project,” she explained.

A key location where she plans to display one of her Peace Angels is at the Boyle Heights Tech Center, a neighborhood previously heavily impacted by gun violence. Her friend Joe Diaz, who works there, explained why this means so much.

“You’ve had young men who’ve lost their lives because of gun violence, violence overall. This angel, nothing could replace a life, but this would definitely add something to those memorable individuals that lost their lives,” Diaz said.

Evola hopes the angels will be a reminder to the community that peace is possible in Los Angeles. She sees the sculptures as a symbol of protection.

“The difference between most people isn’t whether they want peace or not, most people do, I’d say 97 percent just about. But how we get there is where people vehemently disagree. So I want her right hand up so she can give light, so she can show that she protects her children,” Evola emphasized.

She estimates the Peace Angels Project will take about four years for completion.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/news/2019/11/26/peace-angels-project-uses-melted-weapons-for-angel-monuments#>

October 09, 2019

Choosing What's Good

Artist Lin Evola '75 is ambitious. She plans to build five massive monuments, symbols of peace, in five cities across the U.S. The catch? She's making each one of them out of one million weapons.

Lin Evola '75 is an unstoppable force. Equipped with an iron will and a full heart, she broadcasts her art across the planet, hoping to inspire change. What she leaves in her wake are the immovable objects that are her work, the Peace Angels. She shows no signs of stopping—and soon, a Peace Angel might stand up near you.

Founded by Evola in 1992, the Peace Angels Project lawfully collects tens of thousands of decommissioned weapons to melt into sculptures and monuments of peace. It was a movement spurred on by the Los Angeles Riots: “I felt inside me that I needed to go down [to LA]. It’s when I got there and learned that 1000 children were killed that I put it all together,” Evola says. “Being an artist, it’s your job to pick up on those visceral nerves of a time period.” And with the birth of the Project, that’s exactly what she did.

What she put together would become, in essence, the task she has at hand today. Evola will make five cities—New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and San Francisco—homes to massive monuments composed of one million weapons each.



The Renaissance Peace Angel that stood at Ground Zero. / Image courtesy of New York Daily News Archive

“When I say we’re going to make these monuments out of a million weapons, it’s not a goal, it’s a fact,” Evola says. She’s worked for decades finding potential suppliers and building relationships with them, planning for years in advance so she could bring us and them along step-by-step for the upcoming “fact.” Her list of partners is long and impressive, including the U.S. military, United Nations, NATO, and more overseas collaborators. The Peace Angels Project is truly a global event.

And it’s even more than a global event—the Project is a worldwide language, with sort of Tower-of-Babel-like qualities. It’s best seen in action in her Renaissance Peace Angel, a sculpture of bronze and plaque of decommissioned weapons made in 1995.

When the twin towers fell, Evola knew that the Angel only had one place it needed to be: at Ground Zero. Stood outside a 24/7 recuperation center for rescue workers, the workmen began to make the Angel their own. One by one, they signed its cement base. "It became a real Peace Angel," Evola says. "It stood there when nobody wanted to talk about peace." Today it stands in the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

Fittingly, Evola says that if she has one superpower, it's symbolism. Take the Bay Area monument for instance: a massive globe with a peace sign circumscribed, surrounded by tiers of sculptures of activists and philanthropists pertinent to the area. "Those people will be perfectly created, down to the eyelash, out of the same material of the monument," Evola explains. "These statues will never come down. That's why they'll be the best examples of people who have done extreme good. They represent this time period."

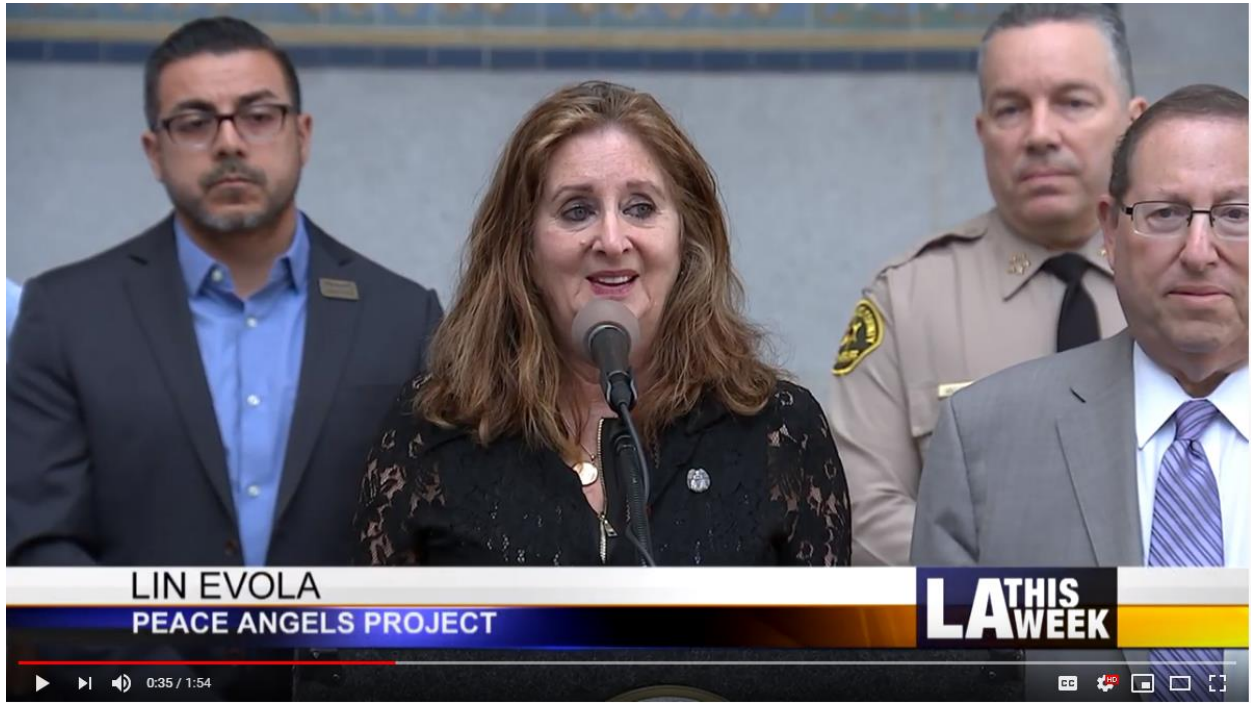
In times when high profile shootings have become disturbingly common, Evola's celebration of the good humans are capable of is a welcome sight. "It's so hard in today's society to shift our focus from what we *don't* want, to what we *do* want. These monuments are there to help us remember: we can always choose what's good. It's never too late." It's a message buried within the heart of each monument sculpture, and angel of the Project. Pieces of art conquer weapons. Good can conquer evil.

Interested in participating in the Peace Angels Project? Reach out to Lin Evola here: sjones@rubensteinpr.com or (212) 805-3068.

<https://magazine.scu.edu/magazines/fall-2019/choosing-whats-good/>



September 18, 2019



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmnEwYtle1M>



September 17, 2019

The Los Angeles Peace Angels Monument Project In A Coalition For One Million Melted Guns

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 9:00 am in the Forecourt at Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles Councilmember **Paul Koretz** and Artist **Lin Evola** and recipients of the Angel of Peace Award announce, the creation of the Los Angeles Peace Angel Monument Project.

The Monument will be sixty-four feet tall and made of one million melted guns and other weapons, reflecting three decades of commitment to stop gun violence.

The impact of Evola's work is profound, as is evidenced by her 13-foot Renaissance Peace Angel sculpture which is in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum and was unveiled in autumn, 2018.

"The nation has lost too many lives to senseless gun violence," said Councilmember Koretz. "I am pleased to stand with Lin Evola today in creating this memorial in honor of those lives and as a symbol to the City of Los Angeles and to this country that it is imperative we do better and make greater strides toward peace."

The Peace Angels Project spans three decades and has touched cities and countries from the Los Angeles to South Africa. I have recently accepted the donation of thousands of weapons from Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for use in creating the monument planned for downtown Los Angeles.

"When I first came to Los Angeles there were three heroic peacemakers who helped me to get my footing and create the foundation and launch for the Peace Angels Project: Billie Weiss, Founder of Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Father Greg Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries, and Khalid Shah, Founder of Stop the Violence Increase the Peace Foundation. All are recipients of the Angel of Peace Award. Their work and inspiration will be recognized as part of the Monument," said Peace Angels Project Founder Lin Evola.

The recent mass murders in El Paso and Dayton have left our communities traumatized and once again put a spotlight on gun violence in this country. The inaction by many local and national politicians has left our neighborhoods, schools and places of worship vulnerable to a cycle of violence that is unique to the United States. The purpose of the Peace Angel is to inspire and heal our people. It will remind future generations that they have the choice to create better lives.

About the Peace Angels Project

In 1992, Lin Evola founded the Peace Angels Project to address the epidemic of violence by reminding us of the responsibilities we all share to create a better world. As an American contemporary Artist, Evola created the Peace Angels Project as a conceptual work of art to engage thought that is meant to stir us - to awaken us to rise up and build a life affirming legacy of Peace in our time. The concept that develops into Peace Angel monuments forwards a legacy of peace to our children and future generations.

<https://losangeles.citybizlist.com/article/571889/the-los-angeles-peace-angels-monument-project-in-a-coalition-for-one-million-melted-guns>



July 29, 2019

Lin Evola Aims to Turn a Million Weapons Into a Monument

Lin Evola is a conceptual artist who doesn't work in a traditional medium. Instead, she sticks with her guns.

Since 1992, after the Los Angeles riots, Evola has sought to reduce the number of weapons in the world literally by melting them into large monuments, calling her work the Peace Angels Project.

"What would I use to elevate people's consciousness? What would I use to give beauty and inspire, that would turn to love and powerful, positive affectation?" says the San Francisco- and Los Angeles-based artist, 69.

On May 31, she received 10 boxes of destroyed weapons from the San Francisco Police Department, the first contribution from law enforcement that will go toward her 1-million-weapons-goal to build a 62-foot globe monument in the Bay Area. Although the exact location hasn't been determined, she hopes to complete it in four years.

Plans are to make it primarily using the core of a nuclear missile for its stainless steel. A translucent globe, with a peace symbol inside, will sit atop layers of square bases, with statues of humans placed near the edge. And a 100- by 100-foot labyrinth path made of gun metal will be underneath.

“The Bay Area is about taking the destruction of humanity and tipping it on its head,” says the Chicago-born artist, whose 13-foot “Renaissance Peace Angel” sculpture stands in the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. “We have spent so much time in the Bay Area building the future. So this monument, I’m very excited about it because it’s all about the future.”

The Peace Angels Project’s arsenal comes from donations by local law enforcement as well as military and government agencies. Using decommissioned or destroyed street weapons, landmines and remnants of nuclear missiles, Evola — who has worked in real estate and finance and earned a master’s degree from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1990 — collaborates with metallurgists, recycling companies and foundries to extract the proper metals and shape the sculpture.

Calling herself a symphony conductor, she emphasizes how Peace Angels is more about building meaningful connections than mere sculptures: “Any moron with a blow torch can make something out of piece of metal. It isn’t rocket science, What is difficult, though, is to create those relationships,” she says.

She arrived at her 1 million weapons goal after doing research and realizing that she could “circumnavigate the globe several times with nuclear missiles and keep going.”

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/entertainment/lin-evola-aims-to-turn-a-million-weapons-into-a-monument/>



July 25, 2019

Lin Evola, Artist And Founder Of The Peace Angels Project, Receives Donation Of Metal From Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Villanueva of the **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD)** announced the donation of thousands of weapons confiscated within Los Angeles County to be utilized for the Peace Angels Project. Lin Evola accepted the donation of metal for use in creating a 64 foot Los Angeles Peace monument slated for downtown Los Angeles. .

“The Peace Angels Project USA Weapons Destruction Campaign mission is to remove weapons from our streets and then use the destroyed weapons to create the Los Angeles Peace Angel Monument. A nationwide campaign began last year with an initial metal donation from the LASD and other law enforcement agencies. Thank you to the LASD for their assistance in making the Los Angeles Peace Angel a reality, and helping us to meet our goal of collecting one million weapons. Three monuments are in process for Los Angeles, New York and Silicon Valley/ San Francisco Bay Area,” said **Lin Evola**.

The weapons include handguns, rifles and automatic weapons collected in criminal investigations, probation seizures and guns turned in by citizens at collection events. Over the past two years in excess of 5 tons of weapons have been donated to the Peace Angles Project by the LASD,

“Through its USA Weapon Destruction Campaign, the Peace Angels Project is reducing the number of firearms in our world by making a national call for the voluntary and permanent destruction of weapons. This call to action is actuated by transforming decommissioned weapons into landmark symbols of peace,” added **Lin Evola**.

Armaments which once were meant to destroy life are transformed into Peace Angel sculptures of various sizes, including Peace Angel monuments that will rise to heights of more than six stories. The impact of Evola's work is profound, as is evidenced by her 13-foot Renaissance Peace Angel sculpture which is in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial Museum and has been on display at the Museum since the autumn of 2018.

The Peace Angels Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following agencies and organizations: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Superior Court, Police & College Safety-Pasadena City College, United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Bell, Bell Gardens, Beverly Hills, La Verne, Long Beach, Pasadena, San Marino, South Pasadena, and University of California Los Angeles Police Departments.

Contributions to the Peace Angels Project can be made on the website: www.peaceangels.com

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<http://losangeles.citybizlist.com/article/562885/lin-evola-artist-and-founder-of-the-peace-angels-project-receives-donation-of-metal-from-los-angeles-county-sheriffs-department>

DAILY BREEZE

Artist receives weapons from Sheriff's Department to help create peace monument

July 24, 2019

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has donated thousands of confiscated weapons to be used by the Peace Angels Project to create a "peace monument" in the downtown area, organizers announced Wednesday.

"The Peace Angels Project is reducing the number of firearms in our world by making a national call for the voluntary and permanent destruction of weapons," said monument artist Lin Evola. "This call to action is actuated by transforming decommissioned weapons into landmark symbols of peace."

According to project officials, more than five tons of weapons have been donated to the Peace Angels Project by the Sheriff's Department over the past two years.

The organization's goal is collecting handguns, rifles and automatic weapons taken in criminal investigations, probation seizures and guns turned in during collection events.

The group is also planning to install peace monuments in New York and San Francisco. Each custom-designed monument will stand atop a 100-foot-by-100-foot labyrinth with a narrative about the site on which the monument sits.

Evola said she is still looking at specific locations for the Los Angeles monument, which is being funded by private donors.

Evola also created the Renaissance Peace Angel sculpture, which is part of a permanent collection at the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York and has been on display since 2018.

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2019/07/24/artist-receives-weapons-from-sheriffs-department-to-help-create-peace-monument/>



Confiscated Weapons To Be Turned Into Downtown Peace Monument

July 24, 2019

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department donated thousands of weapons to be used for a 64-foot "peace monument" downtown.

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department donated thousands of confiscated weapons to be used by the Peace Angels Project to create a 64-foot "peace monument" in the downtown area, organizers announced Wednesday.

"Through its USA Weapon Destruction Campaign, the Peace Angels Project is reducing the number of firearms in our world by making a national call for the voluntary and permanent destruction of weapons," said monument artist Lin Evola. "This call to action is actuated by transforming decommissioned weapons into landmark symbols of peace."

According to project officials, more than five tons of weapons have been donated to the Peace Angles Project by the sheriff's department over the past two years.

The organization's goal is to collect 1 million weapons. The weapons include handguns, rifles and automatic weapons collected in criminal investigations, probation seizures and guns turned in to collection events.

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<https://patch.com/california/studiocity/confiscated-weapons-be-turned-downtown-peace-monument>

Los Angeles Daily News

July 24, 2019

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<https://www.dailynews.com/2019/07/24/artist-receives-weapons-from-sheriffs-department-to-help-create-peace-monument/>



July 24, 2019

Artist Receives Weapons from L.A. County Sheriff to Help Create Peace Monument

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department donated thousands of confiscated weapons to be used by the Peace Angels Project to create a 64-foot "peace monument" in the downtown area, organizers announced Wednesday.

"Through its USA Weapon Destruction Campaign, the Peace Angels Project is reducing the number of firearms in our world by making a national call for the voluntary and permanent destruction of weapons," said monument artist Lin Evola. "This call to action is actuated by transforming decommissioned weapons into landmark symbols of peace."

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<https://mynewsla.com/crime/2019/07/24/artist-receives-weapons-from-l-a-county-sheriff-to-help-create-peace-monument-2/>



June 25, 2019

The Peace Angels Project Founder Lin Evola Receives Weapons Donation From The SFPD For Bay Area/ Silicon Valley Peace Monument



On May 30th, **Peace Angels Project** artist and founder **Lin Evola** accepted a donation of destroyed weapons from the **San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)** for use in creating the metal Peace Monument to be located in the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley.

“These weapons from the SFPD are the first weapons from law enforcement received toward the one million weapons for the production of the 64 foot monument for the Silicon Valley/San Francisco Bay Area,” said **Lin Evola**.

The weapons include handguns, rifles and automatic weapons collected in criminal investigations, probation seizures and guns turned in by citizens at collection events. Of the weapons parts given a certain amount consisted of wood. Since only metal will be used for production of the monuments and subsequent art, the wood will be recycled in Marin, California.

“Wooden grips and rifle stocks went into a green compost bin and will be turned into mulch to grow crops and gardens in Marin County,” said environmentalist Alan Edmondson.

“The Peace Angels Project is reducing the number of firearms in our world by making a national call for the voluntary and permanent destruction of weapons. This call to action is actuated by transforming decommissioned weapons into landmark symbols of peace,” added Lin Evola.

Armaments which once were meant to destroy life are transformed into Peace Angel sculptures of various sizes, including Peace Angel monuments that will rise to heights of more than six stories. The impact of Evola’s work is profound, as is evidenced by her 13-foot Renaissance Peace Angel sculpture which is in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial Museum and was unveiled in the autumn of 2018.

The San Francisco Bay Area is known as a cradle of technology and innovation, with venture capitalism creating a new future for the entire world. In designing the Peace Angel Monument for the San Francisco Bay Area the globe will be its central element. The monument will have a transparent globe as its centerpiece. The transparent globe will move with the evolution of the earth powered by solar energy. The steel will be comprised of many weapons including: nuclear, street weapons, land mines and weapons of war. E-waste and carbon leached from the atmosphere will also be included in the production of the monument to represent global warming.

The Universal Peace Sign is central and will be incorporated within the globe. The core of the transparent globe, the Peace Sign, is symbolic of the idea that in order to live on this earth we must get along with each other and strive for peace, not war.

“The monument symbolizes our human potential to problem solve and increase our capacity to respect each other and listen to one another. We must communicate with each other to foster understanding and world peace,” added Lin Evola,

The Peace Angels Project would like to thank the San Francisco Art Institute the official non profit umbrella to the Project.

Contributions to the Peace Angels Project can be made on the website: www.peaceangels.com

About the Peace Angels Project

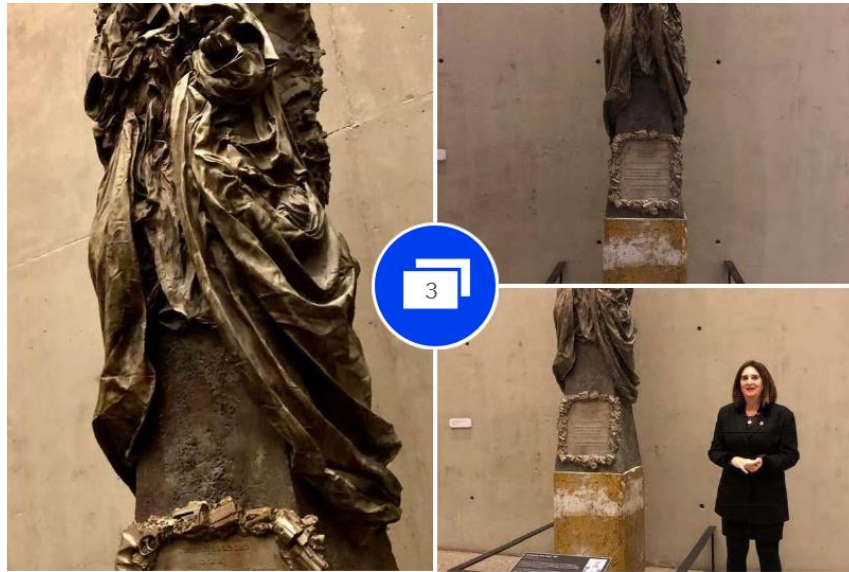
In 1992, Lin Evola founded the Peace Angels Project to address the epidemic of violence by reminding us of the responsibilities we all share to create a better world. As an American contemporary Artist, Evola created the Peace Angels Project as a conceptual work of art to engage thought that is meant to stir us - to awaken us to rise up and build a life affirming legacy of Peace in our time. The concept that develops into Peace Angel monuments forwards a legacy of peace to our children and future generations.

<https://losangeles.citybizlist.com/article/557074/the-peace-angels-project-founder-lin-evola-receives-weapons-donation-from-the-sfpd-for-bay-area-silicon-valley-peace-monument>



June 21, 2019

N.J. company helps turn pain into peace, one gun at a time



Gallery: Lin Evola sculptures

One artist and one local metal recycling facility have teamed up to make the world a safer place – through art.

Sims Metal Management, with operations in Jersey City and 19 states, has partnered with artist Lin Evola in her Peace Angels Project, which is an initiative aimed at creating sculptures out of recycled weapons and other metals as a symbol of peace.

Today, one of Evola's sculptures is included in the permanent collection in New York City's National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

The whole concept started for Evola back in 1992 in Los Angeles, around the time of riots surrounding the Rodney King police brutality case and increasing violence. She said as an artist, her first reaction was, 'What am I going to do about this?'

"I couldn't comprehend how a parent could even live in an area where their children are put in such risk," Evola said. "It was crushing to feel that way."

And so the project began, first with connections and contributions of weapons from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. As the project has grown, Sims became involved — and now the metal recycling giant has re-purposed more than 10,000 weapons from objects of destruction to those of peace.

"It's time for human beings to realize their greatness and stop killing each other," she said. "This is a critical point for humanity."

Sims, which was called in to recycle metal at Ground Zero after 9/11, works with local municipalities, law enforcement and the USA Weapons Destruction Campaign by shredding guns for Evola and the Peace Angels project.

<https://www.nj.com/hudson/2019/06/nj-company-helps-turn-pain-into-peace-one-gun-at-a-time.html>



April 25, 2019

As tragic events unfold, Lin continues to collaborate with communities in need of hope. Most recently, in the wake of New Zealand’s Christchurch mosque shootings, she’s been in talks with Police Commissioner Mike Bush to collect weapons seized or voluntarily surrendered to be used as materials for a New Zealand monument.

Art has an amazing duality; it is deeply personal but at the same time can inspire and engage entire communities.



Provided by Lin Evola

For painter and sculptor [Lin Evola](#), news reports of children killed by gun violence were deeply personal and sparked a desire to use her art to open everyone’s eyes to the wider violence that plagues our society. In her resulting Peace Angels Project, Evola created incredible sculptures of angels to represent finding “common ground when we disagree, rather than taking up arms against one another.”

The angelic beauty of sculptures is juxtaposed with their medium- metal. But not just any metal. Evola uses metal shredded and melted down by [Sims Metals](#), a global leader in metal and [electronics recycling](#) and an emerging leader in municipal recycling and renewable energy. The metal used in her art originates from weapons, including guns, knives, decommissioned nuclear stainless steel and land mines.

The seed for the Peace sculptures was planted in the 1990s in California, where she was living. Evola pondered how she could use the power of art to convey the challenge of keeping our children alive in a world where violence is so prevalent.



Provided by Lin Evola

After two years of exploring and developing the idea she turned to sculpture as the medium that best fit the spiritual story, one that could, “harness the power of art, making it contemporary and giving it the power to lift people up and transform their thinking.”

The project’s first work, the Renaissance Peace Angel, was created in 1997 from bronze with the plaque created from decommissioned nuclear and gun metal. In 2001 it was moved to New York’s Ground Zero, where it served as a beacon of hope for the workers labouring in the grey, acrid haze of the World Trade Center ruins.

In the following days, weeks and months, many workers etched personal inscriptions into the angel’s nuclear stainless steel base. The Peace Angel became such an important symbol of peace and unity to the Ground Zero community. Today it is part of the permanent collection in New York City’s National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

As the Peace Angels Project grew in scope, Sims Metals became involved, taking a new angle on our core value of sustainability by shredding the weapons and melting the metal down into molecules that become the angels. The weapons are donated to the project by various law enforcement agencies in the United States via the USA Weapons Destruction Campaign.

Together Evola and Sims Metals have repurposed more than 10,000 weapons from objects of destruction to objects of peace.

The project has special meaning for the Sims employees involved. Réal Hamilton-Romeo, Group Director of Corporate Communications, says, “Sims Metals specializes in providing resourceful

solutions to managing unused metals and electronic equipment to help protect our environment. With this project we are able to use our specialized knowledge to help protect people in the communities where we live and work.”

Evola believes the partnership reinforced her ability to undertake the Peace Angel project purely with no political agenda. She says, “It’s mind numbing that it’s taken so long for people to wake up to this epidemic. What I have to offer, in collaboration with Sims Metals, is bringing my message and sculptures to communities where violence is a huge issue, and where Sims can shred donated weapons.”

Evola continued, “We can engage the media and ask people to give up their weapons for the project. And it doesn’t matter what kind of weapon it is. Weapons are a symbol of the way human beings are destroying one another. We must remind each other of our inherent greatness.”

In San Francisco another project is in progress focusing on the needles which have helped fuel the local heroin and opioid epidemic.

Future large-scale works will be installed in New York, Los Angeles and the Silicon Valley. The angels are, in their own way spreading their wings as they will depict both male and female figures, and a kinetic globe.

SPOTLIGHT

March 22nd, 2019

Artist Transforms Weapons Into Inspiring Icons Of Hope

Symbols and icons communicate powerful messages, and for contemporary artist Lin Evola-Smidt, 'peace' is the most important.



Source: YouTube

As the founder of the Peace Angel Project and the Art of Peace Charitable Trust, Lin has been making the world a better place by transforming various types of street weapons into inspiring icons of peace. During the 2017 TedxFultonStreetSalon, Lin revealed that she has more weapons than any other private individual, owning approximately 12,000 handgun, rifles, knives, cannons, and nuclear weapon casings. These are in addition to one hundred barrels of melted weapons in the form of decommissioned stainless steel.



Source: YouTube

Lin founded the Peace Angel Project in 1992 while living in San Francisco, Los Angeles. During this time, L.A. murder rates were amongst the highest in the country, and she wondered what world her eight-year-old son would inherit. She told The Christian Science Monitor: “I’d been an artist since the first time I opened my eyes, but I wanted more at that moment than to just create a piece of art.”

“I wanted people to make a shift within themselves.”

During a podcast with See Change Magazine, she explained: “We [The Peace Angel Project] take physical weapons and transform them into something that breathes air back into society.” For Lin, that ‘something’ is sculptures in the form of ‘peace angels’. Through their erection, Lin provides hope for a better future while also permanently taking weapons off the street. “They will never harm anyone again,” she said.



Source: YouTube

To obtain the materials for her art, Lin collaborates with local enforcement to take weapons that have been confiscated during seizures and criminal investigations. Then, working in collaboration with metal management companies, the weapons are melted down for use.



Lin's most famous sculpture is the Renaissance Angel, a 13-foot sculpture housed in the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.



“That Peace Angel, once brought from California, served as a symbol of peace in front of Nino’s restaurant the entire time Nino and his family fed the firemen, police officers, and rescue workers, 24 hours a day,” she recalled. While it was erected, its base collected signatures and words of encouragement left by those who had gathered there.

THE  AFTERMATH



**Injuries
are few
WTC s**

By GREG GUTTRICH
GREG GUTTRICH

After more than 2 million hours laboring at the World Trade Center, only 96 injury claims with the government safety officials say.

City insurance records reviewed by the Daily News show that through the end of last year, only 13 of the claims were filed by workers who missed a day or more of work because of an injury.

The other injuries cited were so minor that workers were able to continue toiling amid the mountains of jagged steel and concrete.

"It's pretty amazing," said Kenneth Haddon, commissioner of the city Design and Construction Department, which oversees work at Ground Zero.

"This is New York's top shelf coming together and focusing on a dangerous site," he said. "It created a protocol for people to work together and be aware of the safety issues."

Of the 96 claims, 28 came from workers struck by objects, 18 from falls, nine from burns and seven from respiratory problems. The remainder consisted of slips, cuts and other minor injuries. No one has died during the cleanup and demolition.

"This is remarkable, given the amount of work hours and the difficult nature of the job," said Louis Colitti, chairman of the Building Trades-Employer Association.

HURT
Caught under or between
4.2%
Cuts
4.2%
Materials handling
4.2%
All other
56.7%
■ Claimed as liberty through 1999 claims

TRIBUTE Outside Nino's restaurant on Canal St., the Renaissance Peace Angel sculpture by artist Lin Erola greets Ground Zero workers. The restaurant plans to close next week.

Last call
Nino's, the Canal St. restaurant that has fed cops, firefighters and other Ground Zero workers for free for five months, is closing up shop next week.

The Ground Zero workers who ate there raved about the food and the chance to relax for a few minutes.

Menhouse, who hopes to open a paying restaurant at another site, said Nino's kitchen will

DAILY NEWS
EXCLUSI

At another point in her career, Lin was also invited by South African Nobel Peace Laureates Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu and former President Nelson Mandela to unveil the 'Spirit of Africa' Angel in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Additionally, an 11-foot Jerusalem Peace Angel created from decommissioned, Israeli and Palestinian nuclear weapons is currently in the works.



Lin is also planning two six-story sculptures to be erected in Los Angeles and New York.

According to a press release, the planned New York Renaissance Peace Angel is named in reference to the Renaissance in art history, referring to humanity's renaissance over weapons of destruction. A 'labyrinth' will be incorporated around the monument, showing a timeline of dates and occurrences related to gun violence. It will also include etched figures of loved ones and those who have passed due to gun violence, such as longtime peace activist Yoko Ono and husband John Lennon.



The California Peace Angel will feature a female angel holding three children with her left arm, while her right is held up in symbolic protection of gesture and life. The base will hold thirty-six life-sized sculptures of "Humanitarians who have done 'Extreme Good' during this time in human history."



As tragic events unfold, Lin continues to collaborate with communities in need of hope. Most recently, in the wake of New Zealand's Christchurch mosque shootings, she's been in talks with Police Commissioner Mike Bush to collect weapons seized or voluntarily surrendered to be used as materials for a New Zealand monument.

stuff

March 20, 2019

Christchurch: Peace Angels Project wants to turn weapons into art



Peace Angels want to turn handed-in weapons into a memorial for Christchurch and New Zealand.

An American artist and a former Taranaki man want to turn semi-automatic weapons into a symbol for peace in the wake of the Christchurch mosque shootings.

Contemporary artist Lin Evola and Ciaran Forsythe, head of the New York-based Peace Angels Project, which created a work using seized or conflict firearms for an exhibit at New York's 9/11 National Memorial Museum, want to do the same for New Zealand's garden city.

On Tuesday Evola contacted Forsythe to propose the project while he was visiting his home town of New Plymouth.



Former Taranaki man Ciaran Forsythe, of the Peace Angels Project, wants to melt down firearms outlawed by any Government gun law reforms in the aftermath of the Christchurch terror attacks and create a symbol of peace.

He has since contacted New Zealand police hoping to get hold of any firearms which could be outlawed by Government law reforms following the March 15 shootings.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has promised change after an Australian gunman, who held white supremacist beliefs, opened fire at two mosques, killing 50 muslims and injuring dozens more.



Contemporary New York artist Lin Evola, left, and Ciaran Forsythe of the Peace Angels Project at the unveiling of the Renaissance Peace Angel at the 9/11 National Memorial Museum in New York City in November 2018.

Some Kiwis have already surrendered their legally held weapons and Forsythe encouraged others to follow suit.

Forsythe, who has lived in America for four years, was back visiting family in Taranaki when the attack happened and Evola called him to suggest the project.

"First of all she said, 'I love your Prime Minister.' She saw the picture of Jacinda Ardern with the headscarf on looking like the face of humility.



Contemporary New York artist Lin Evola speaks at a press conference with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department relating to the seizure and destruction of more than 10,000 fire-arms for the Peace Angels Project.

"She was just so touched by everything that she has seen this week."

In November 2018 Forsythe and Evola were at the unveiling of the Renaissance Peace Angel at the 9/11 National Memorial Museum in New York.

He said they felt compelled to do something similar for Christchurch to help the healing process.

"We would have some of New Zealand's semi-automatic weapons in there and they get melted down and transformed into a symbol of peace rather than weapons of destruction.

He wanted to "do something with those weapons that's positive".

Forsythe said he was proud of the way New Zealand had reacted to the mass murder.

"This is not something that Kiwis are numb to like Americans. This is yesterday's news already in the US.

"This news hits New Zealanders, I think, a lot harder than another massacre in the US would hit that country for sure.

"I think this hits the world harder, a little bit, just because the narrative of New Zealand is beautiful mountains, sheep and Lord of the Rings."

Forsythe has contacts for Police Commissioner Mike Bush and said he would continue to work to obtain any weapons outlawed by gun law reforms or voluntarily surrendered, although he knew any decisions could be a long way off.

He had already contacted a New Zealand scrap metal company which had agreed to melt the weapons for the project if the organisation could come to an agreement with police to procure the firearms.

Lin Evola, who has also worked in Jerusalem and South Africa, is also embarking on her most ambitious model - a 19 metre high statue for Los Angeles which will consist of more than a million seized or donated weapons.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/christchurch-shooting/111425360/christchurch-peace-angels-project-wants-to-turn-weapons-into-art>

March 20, 2019

The Angel of Peace, from Melted Weapons, at The 9/11 Museum's Tribute Walk

In the days following 9/11, a 13-foot [Angel](#) sculpture was placed outside Nino's Restaurant on Canal Street. The restaurant, operating on a 24/7 basis, provided food, coffee and a warm place to rest for the hundreds of rescue and recovery workers who toiled for weeks after the attack. This bronze beacon of comfort rose high enough over the smoke and haze enabling exhausted workers to locate it. When a worker asked directions to Nino's they were told to "look up, and when you see the angel, you're there."

The Renaissance [Peace](#) Angel (RPA), the sculpture's official title, was created by artist Lin Evola, a California-native who sought to create art that would counterbalance the alarming rise of gun violence in her L.A. community years before 9/11. While the angel was created from bronze, its plaque is made from melted metal from confiscated weapons donated by various law enforcement agencies. From this initial angel came the *Peace Angels Project USA Weapons Destruction Campaign* whose mission is to remove millions of weapons from neighborhoods across the country. The Project's first donation of 3500 weapons came from confiscated firearms by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



The RPA remained for months outside Nino's restaurant; its base by then filled with signatures, calls for peace, words of encouragement and lots of "God bless America." Moved to the National September 11 Memorial Museum's permanent collection in November of 2018, the statue and base were placed in the Museum's Tribute Walk, alongside the memorial to Brooklyn's Engine 205, H & L 118.



Lin Evola

Evola, who continues to sculpt angels and other symbols of peace from confiscated weapons, is thrilled that the sculpture is on display "where the public can see the armaments that were once meant to destroy life...transformed into a symbol of peace and understanding." When asked about the genesis of the Peace Project, Evola explains that as a single mother in L.A., during the violence of the 1990's, and learning that over 1,000 children were killed in L.A. County, she felt compelled to use her skills as a conceptual artist, "to interrupt the cycle of violence and transform it into a cycle of peace."

The donated weapons include handguns, rifles, and automatic weapons, as well as items collected from criminal seizures, guns turned into law enforcement, and materials from nuclear missiles. Companies in the metal management business have donated furnaces, equipment and employees to convert the metal into usable material for future works of art. With a recent donation of two tons of weapons metal mix, more angels and other symbols of peace are being created with some already promised to sites across the globe.

An artist "since birth," Evola's story is an amazing example of what one person can do. She says, "We are all accountable to each other in this world...it is within the power of each of us to rise up and declare that we will no longer tolerate the destruction of our families and or of our nations...let each Peace Angel stand as a constant reminder of our unshaken resolve to change the course of human history."



The plaque that rests on the RPA is framed with shapes of donated weapons and reads:

Peace Angels are here to fortify, we – the people of the world nation of many faces, we stand together. Equal in race, sex and creed. In solidarity, we strive to overcome the obstacles of fear and hatred as we melt the weapons – the tools of the destruction of our time. Together we pledge our courage and create symbols of peace.

With a resume that includes solo exhibitions in museums and galleries across Europe and the United States, Evola holds a Master a Fine Arts Degree from San Francisco Art Institute. To learn more about Lin Evola's works and the Peace Angel Project, visit peaceangels.com (site will be live on April 1, 2019).

The post The Angel of Peace, from Melted Weapons, at The 9/11 Museum's Tribute Walk appeared first on Woman Around Town.

<https://www.blogarama.com/life-blogs/205328-homepage-woman-around-town-blog/29468184-angel-peace-from-melted-weapons-911-museums-tribute-walk>



March 20, 2019

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Lin Evola

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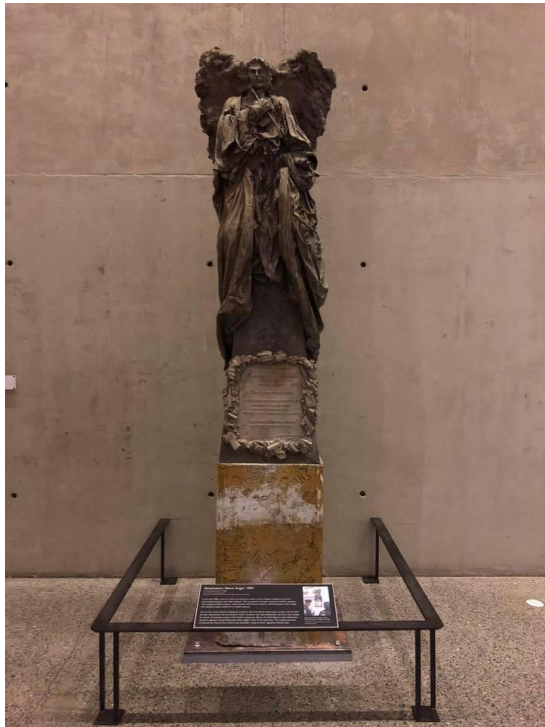
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<https://www.womanaroundtown.com/sections/living-around/angel-peace-created-melted-weapons-debuts-9-11-museums-tribute-walk/>

PEACE ANGEL SCULPTURE ON DISPLAY AT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 2ND

NEW YORK – November 2, 2018 – The 13-foot Renaissance Peace Angel Sculpture, part of the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, is now on display in the Museum.



Following the sculpture's initial posting on Canal Street in lower Manhattan outside Nino's Restaurant in the immediate days and months after 9/11, the Peace Angel was removed to safe storage and subsequently donated to the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial Museum in 2013. The work is the creation of artist Lin Evola and is created from bronze; the Plaque is made from confiscated weapons metal donated by various law enforcement agencies and the cement base was signed post 9/11 by a combination of first responders, recovery workers and Ground Zero volunteers who frequented Nino's relief center, and were inspired by the Angel's message of non-violence.

"I am thrilled to see the Renaissance Peace Angel Sculpture on the Museum's Tribute Walk in a place where the public can see that armaments that were once meant to destroy life have been transformed into a symbol of peace and understanding," said Lin Evola.

The sculpture is the beacon for the Peace Angels Project USA Weapons Destruction Campaign whose goal is to remove millions of weapons from the streets of the United States. The weapons include decommissioned nuclear missiles stainless steel, handguns, rifles and automatic weapons collected in criminal investigations probation seizures and guns turned in to law enforcement by citizens at various collection events.

"Armaments once meant to destroy lives will be transformed into Peace Angel sculptures of various

sizes including Peace Angel monuments that will rise more than six stories, in the same series as the sculpture that we see today on the Tribute Walk,” said Lin Evola.

The Peace Angels Project USA Weapons Destruction campaign was recently launched with a donation of metal from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department which announced the destruction of over 3,500 weapons confiscated in Los Angeles County.

This past summer Lin Evola accepted the donation of two tons of weapons metal mix to be used in creating future Peace Angel sculptures.

Very generously the Gerdau Steel Mill, Sims Metal Management and SA Recycling have do

nated its furnaces, equipment and employees to convert weapons metal into shards or steel rebar to be used in future Peace Angels.

“As a global company whose entire business is focused on making resources available for future use, Sims Metal Management is fully committed to seeking new ways to improve on our commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen,” said Alistair Field Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Sims Metal Management. As part of that commitment, we have participated in the safe destruction and recycling of weapons provided to us from local law enforcement agencies. It is for this reason that Sims is proud to support the Peace Angels Project and partner in the broader USA Weapons Destruction Campaign.”

The rebar that Gerdau Steel produces began with Sheriff Block, LASD 25 years ago which has been used in highways, bridges and other structures ever since.

“We are all accountable to each other in this world, for it is within the power of each of us to rise up and declare that we will no longer tolerate the destruction of our families and of our nations. It is the very unity of this voice and the diligence of our actions that will give us the courage to be strong and to forever hold ourselves and one another as sacred. Let each Peace Angel stand as a constant reminder of our unshaken resolve to change the course of human history,” said Lin Evola.

“My wish is that the Renaissance Peace Angel here at the Museum will be a reminder to all who visit that weapons that destroy lives must be destroyed themselves and turned into symbols of peace,” added Ms. Evola.

[About the Peace Angels Project](#)

In 1992, Lin Evola founded the Peace Angels Project to address the epidemic of violence by reminding us of the responsibilities we all share to create a better world. As an American contemporary Artist, Evola created the Peace Angels Project as a conceptual work of art to engage thought that is meant to stir us - to awaken us to rise up and build a life affirming legacy of Peace in our time. The concept that develops into Peace Angel monuments forwards a legacy of peace to our children and future generations.

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#

July 26, 2018

Lin Evola Receives Donation of Metal From Annual Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Gun Destruction Event



Chief Eric Parra of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) along with other law enforcement officers announced the destruction of over 3,500 weapons confiscated within Los Angeles County. On behalf of the Peace Angels Project, **Lin Evola** accepted a donation of metal for use in creating a metal angel sculpture for peace.

"This is the initiation of the Peace Angels Project USA Weapons Destruction Campaign to remove 1 million weapons from our streets for the Los Angeles Peace Angel Monument. A nationwide campaign begins with this initial metal donation from the LASD and other law enforcement. Three monuments are in process for Los Angeles, New York and Silicon Valley/ San Francisco Bay Area," said Lin Evola.

The weapons include handguns, rifles and automatic weapons collected in criminal investigations, probation seizures and guns turned in by citizens at collection events.

"Through its USA Weapon Destruction Campaign, the Peace Angels Project is reducing the number of firearms in our world by making a national call for the voluntary and permanent destruction of weapons. This call to action is actuated by transforming decommissioned weapons into landmark symbols of peace," added Lin Evola.

Annually, Gerdau Steel Mill generously donates its furnace, equipment and employees to convert these weapons into steel rebar for use in local highways and bridges.

Armaments which once were meant to destroy life are transformed into Peace Angel sculptures of various sizes, including Peace Angel monuments that will rise to heights of more than six stories. The impact of Evola's work is profound, as is evidenced by her 13-foot Renaissance Peace Angel sculpture which is in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial Museum and is to be unveiled in the autumn of 2018.

The Peace Angels Project gratefully acknowledges the support of the following agencies and organizations: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Superior Court, Police & College Safety-Pasadena City College, United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Bell, Bell Gardens, Beverly Hills, La Verne, Long Beach, Pasadena, San Marino, South Pasadena, and University of California Los Angeles Police Departments.

In addition, the Peace Angels Project would like to thank the Gerdau Steel Mill who annually donates its furnace, equipment and employees to convert these weapons into steel rebar for use in local highways and bridges.

Contributions to the Peace Angels Project can be made on the website: www.peaceangels.com

About the Peace Angels Project

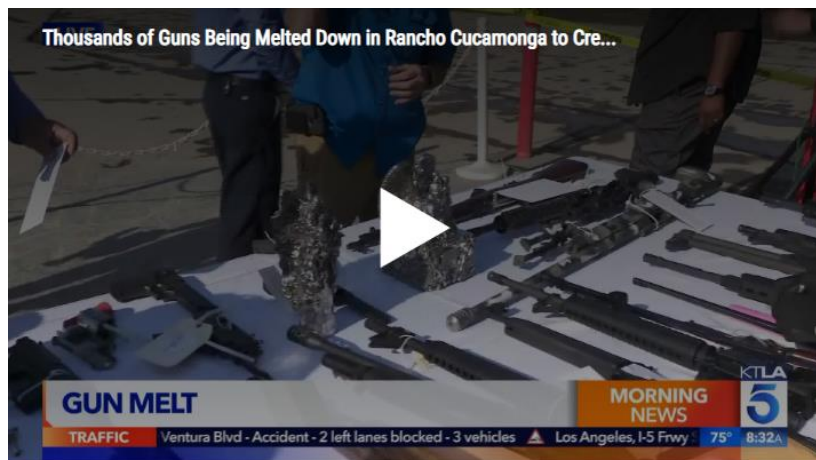
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<http://newyork.citybizlist.com/article/492461/lin-evola-receives-donation-of-metal-from-annual-los-angeles-county-sheriffs-department-gun-destruction-event>



Thousands of Guns Melted Down in Rancho Cucamonga Will Help Create 6-Story Angel Statues

POSTED 10:03 AM, JULY 19, 2018, BY [CHRISTINA PASCUCCI](#) AND [MARISSA WENZKE](#), UPDATED AT 05:56PM, JULY 19, 2018



More than 3,500 guns, many of which obtained during criminal investigations and probation seizures, are being melted down in Rancho Cucamonga on Thursday to be used for infrastructure such as buildings and bridges as well as toward a sculpture project promoting peace.

For this year's 25th annual gun destruction project, some of the metal will be used to cast massive angel statues as part of the Peace Angels Project, an ongoing sculpture series that melts down street weapons to turn them into "powerful images of kindness, compassion, and unity," as [its website](#) states.

The melted down weapons will be mixed with other scrap metal to get it all to the right consistency so it can be casted and used for other purposes, as a representative for Gerdau Steel Mill told KTLA. The mill has been working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to melt down a total of 170,000 firearms over the last 25 years.

Some of the weapons — including handguns, rifles and automatic weapons — were collected from mass community donations or were seized during criminal cases and probation-related incidents, authorities said.

In addition to the Peace Angels Project, some of the resulting metal will be used to produce rebar, or steel reinforcing bar, that will be used in the future construction or repair of freeways and bridges across Arizona, California, and Nevada, sheriff's officials said. Some of that metal has already gone toward the construction of such landmark buildings as the Wilshire Grand Center in downtown L.A. and Apple's corporate campus in Cupertino.

"Each illegal weapon removed from our streets significantly influences the community and citizens we serve," Chief Eric Parra of the Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

Lin Evola, a contemporary artist who started the Peace Angels Project, said she launched it at a time when gun violence was wreaking havoc on Los Angeles County. Through its use of melted weapons as material for art, according to the project's website, it "permanently transforms these weapons of mass destruction into life-affirming symbols of peace."



Lin Evola: Peace Angels
www.studiovendome.com

December 10, 2015

Friday, a new exhibit of artist Lin Evola's Peace Angels project opens at Studio Vendome in SoHo. Evola takes melted guns and nuclear weapons and transforms them into painted peace symbols and sculptures.

<http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/arts/2015/12/10/your-weekend-starts-now-12-10-15.html>

9/11 MEMORIAL

May 7, 2013

‘Peace Angel’ Finds Home in 9/11 Memorial Museum



In the days following the terror attacks of Sept. 11, the Peace Angel sculpture served as a symbol of hope while standing outside of Nino’s restaurant on Canal Street. Nino’s became a complimentary respite center and 24-hour food canteen for emergency responders at Ground Zero for months after 9/11.

Lin Evola, a San Francisco, Calif.-based artist, developed a series of figural metal sculptures created with a mixture of locally surrendered street weapons as well as decommissioned nuclear missile casings the artist secured from governments worldwide. The sculptures, including the Peace Angel, [were created beginning in 1994](#). Shortly after 9/11, the sculpture was brought across country to lower Manhattan. The piece’s cement base was soon covered with inscribed names, hometowns, agencies and comments of thanks from first responders, construction workers and volunteers.

“May this Peace Angel forever reminds us of the blessings that cooperation brings, and inspires us to be both diligent and courageous, as together we tip the balance towards peace in our world,” said Evola.

The sculpture has become a part of the 9/11 Memorial Museum collection.

<http://www.911memorial.org/blog/%E2%80%98peace-angel%E2%80%99-finds-home-911-memorial-museum>

DAILY NEWS

June 8,
2011

Guns taken off city streets by NYPD to be turned into 'inspirational' art



Hundreds of guns pulled from [New York City](#) streets will be melted down and crafted into a work of art that promotes peace.

The [NYPD](#) donated 946 weapons to artist [Lin Evola](#), who will transform them into a 5-foot tall statue of a peace angel. The guns - including shotguns, handguns and assault rifles - were taken from suspects or turned in during buyback programs.

"They'll be shredded here and ultimately melted down to form a large peace angel that we'll prominently display at Police Headquarters," [Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly](#) said Tuesday at the Sims [Metal Management](#) recycling yard in [Jersey City](#).

"And of course, it's symbolic," Kelly said. "The idea is to turn guns into pieces of art."

Kelly noted that over the weekend, the NYPD recovered more than 350 guns in the [Bronx](#) through a buyback program hosted by three churches.

Evola, founder of the nonprofit Art of Peace Charitable Trust, said she hopes to curb violence through her work.



"We have a very real and very achievable goal of interrupting the cycle of violence within our neighborhoods," she said, "...by supporting the removal of illicit weapons and transforming them into inspirational peace angels."

Evola has created peace angels for [Los Angeles](#), [Jerusalem](#) and [Johannesburg, South Africa](#). But the first one she sculpted sat outside Nino's Restaurant on Canal St. for eight months. Some say the 13-foot statue gave a feeling of protection to first-responders working at [Ground Zero](#) after the 9/11 attacks.

"It's a sense of comfort," said owner [Nino Vendone](#), as he stood near dozens of oil drums filled with firearms at the recycling yard. "It was a guardian angel." Officials said there's no target date for installing the peace angel in the lobby of Police Headquarters.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/guns-city-streets-nypd-turned-inspirational-art-article-1.127780>

Los Angeles Times

November 15,
2010



L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies Blake Basse, from left, David Brakebush, Steven Marella and Bill Brauberger stand watch over piles of guns seized by the L.A. Police Department and Sheriff's Department on Monday at SA Recycling on Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles. Sheriff Lee Baca and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck attended a news conference to discuss the destruction of the guns, which will be crushed and used to make a sculpture called a "peace angel" by artist Lin Evola, who melts shredded guns with nuclear missile casings to cast the sculptures.

<http://framework.latimes.com/2010/11/15/pictures-in-the-news-62/#/>

The New York Times

December 16,
2001

Habitats/Springfield, N.J.; In an Artist's House, Angels Symbolize Hope

ELEVEN years ago, Lin Evola, a painter, had a vision. She would melt down guns and the casings of nuclear weapons, and use the metal for sculpturing angels -- peace angels. In the course of asking people to put down their weapons, she imagined that she would contribute to the process of creating peace in the world.

Ms. Evola, who is now 50, has followed her vision of peace all over the world, hoping to place her angels in sites of great conflict. She said that she hopes that the angels will eventually find homes in Johannesburg, Jerusalem, Sarajevo, Belfast, Los Angeles and New York. She has been to some extent a peace nomad, traveling far and frequently from her home in California, and often taking her only child, Jason, now 17, with her.

At the time she began the project and abandoned her life as a painter, she was, she said, "fresh off a tough divorce." With her child and the angels absorbing her energy, she was in no mood for love, and she certainly wasn't looking for another husband. "I didn't go on dates," she said.

But several years ago, when she was giving a speech in New York, she was introduced to Daniel Peabody-Smidt, now 55, who lives in New Jersey and was interested in philanthropy and art and, of course, peace. She returned to California shortly after, but he pursued her long distance.

"Once I started to speak to him on the phone," she said, "we became best friends."

Last spring, they decided to marry; three weeks later, he had a massive heart attack. She came to help him, and decided then that she couldn't move back to California.

She talked with her son about moving east, but his reaction was negative. "He said, 'Mom, you've moved me 26 times,' " she said.

And so, leaving him with his godmother so he could finish high school there, she moved this past spring to Mr. Peabody-Smidt's 1960's brick ranch house in Springfield, N.J., where he lives with his mother.

Although typical and unremarkable from the outside, the house inside feels like a museum, a monument to two very different things. Its décor is nearly unchanged from the 1960's because,

Mr. Peabody-Smidt says, "it was something my father and mother chose, and we respect that." But it has also become a place to display the peace angels that she has created.

All are made of bronze except for one small but extremely heavy one, constructed of guns and nuclear-weapons casings. The nuclear-weapons casings were necessary to give the sculpture durability and beauty. "I couldn't just make them of guns," she said. "They would turn an ugly gray, and rust, and break."

Ms. Evola gets the guns for her work from police departments that have confiscated them; in Los Angeles, she said, several gangs have donated guns for the project. The nuclear-weapons casings, used in United States weaponry but containing no radioactive materials, are obtained through a metal broker from the armed services.

Right now, one of her angels, made of guns and nuclear-weapons casings as well as bronze, is outside Nino's in New York at Canal Street near Varick Street, the restaurant that has been a haven for the workers who are searching for bodies at the World Trade Center. Eventually, she hopes to create an angel that will be a permanent memorial to the World Trade Center.

For Mr. Peabody-Smidt, the house in New Jersey, 45 minutes southwest of Manhattan, is a place suffused with memory, built by his father, Samuel Smidt, he said, "to last forever," with every board nailed perfectly and every brick placed carefully. "He wanted all of us to have something wonderful," he said.

Although he was married previously and has two children, Christopher Arthur and Norma, he has spent much of his life in the house. He left for a while but returned about eight years ago, when his mother, Jeanette, who is legally blind, needed help.

For most of his life, family investments have allowed him to pursue work in philanthropy and with nonprofit groups. Fully recovered from his heart problem, he is now chairman of the peace angel project, a nonprofit group that has received gifts and also makes some money through the sale of paintings, drawings and small peace angels to private patrons.

Ms. Evola and Mr. Peabody-Smidt, who married June 16, have turned a former sun room into their bedroom. "I wake up every morning to the sun," she said. When she is working with the claylike material from which she does preparatory models of angels, she retreats to the basement, where she has created a small studio.

ALTHOUGH Ms. Evola said she loves her new home, "it is basically Daniel's mom's." Ms. Evola continues to travel a great deal. But when she is in New Jersey, she finds it a comforting home.

It seems familiar, she said, like the south side of Chicago, in the Italian neighborhood where she was raised.

"I had never been to New Jersey before," she said. "The people here are so kind."

Although she didn't time her move so she would be in New York during a period of great stress, this is certainly a prime moment for a peace worker to be here. Because of the "big blast of negativity that hit New York" on Sept. 11, she said, "violence has the potential to increase." Everyone, she said, needs to help the city pivot in a positive direction.

"You have to start with your home," she said, "if you're going to make peace in the world."

Photos: Daniel Peabody-Smidt and Lin Evola in their house, which has several peace angels sculptured by Ms. Evola, including one, below, of melted guns and nuclear weapons casings.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/16/realestate/habitats-springfield-nj-in-an-artist-s-house-angels-symbol>
