

**Ken Schles Photographs
Exhibit Opening**

September 10, 2002

Ambassador Coats

Ken Schles,

Mr. Erfurt.

September 11 -- one year later.

I doubt if any of us will ever forget where we were when we first learned of the attacks.

We will never forget the shock and horror of those first hours.

Around the world, people, numb, remained glued to the screens of their televisions, anxious for an explanation of what had happened, overcome by the realization that, indeed, "anything can happen."

Unbelievable as it seemed on that day -- the passage of one year has engrained those "news" images in our minds.

Now we find ourselves in a stunning new gallery complex, a testament to the revitalization of the former East Berlin, and in the midst of a striking photo exhibition: "The Geometry of Innocence," in which Ken Schles shows us various perspectives on modern life -- primarily in New York -- over the past decade. These images -- which touch the soul -- provide a context for what we will now experience.

For the images we are about to see here this evening in this special presentation, are photographs that will remain engrained in our hearts. They are pictures which Ken Schles took in the area around ground zero in the days and weeks after the attacks, and they communicate in human terms the impact of these events on the people of New York, our nation, and the civilized world. These photos are only to be seen in momentary, fleeting images so that the photographer may convey a sense of what it was like simply to wander through lower Manhattan in the weeks after September 11.

As we prepare to mark this tragic anniversary, these are the images that, as Secretary of State Powell said recently, give "remembrance a face."

These are the images that document the feelings and emotions that go beyond time, beyond culture, and beyond history -- the feelings and emotions that, one year ago, touched the lives of people around the world. The outpouring of support from German citizens from all walks of life was a source of great comfort and strength to all Americans. These memories, too, will remain engrained in our hearts.

Thank you.