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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 25CPW Art Gallery Presents
**The Aesthetics of the Real:
Art Born From War**
Featuring
**Peter Balakian, Bob Woodruff,
Lee Woodruff & art by Ed Kashi**

25CPW (62nd Street & Central Park West) on September 16th, 7 pm.

New York Times Best-Selling and Notable Book author **Peter Balakian** will join his former Colgate University students **Bob Woodruff** of ABC News and his wife, writer and journalist, **Lee Woodruff** to discuss the transformation of reporting into art: the aesthetics of the real.

Balakian and Lee and Bob Woodruff will read from their books and discuss the harsh and intimate realities of confronting personal and political trauma. How is trauma and violence represented in poetry, nonfiction, the news, and the kind of photojournalism featured in **Ed Kashi's** work, which will line the gallery walls? What is an aesthetic of the real? How is the imagination jolted by the unexpected intrusion of political events—be it a powerful image across the street, news of disaster happening overseas involving a close friend or spouse, or shrapnel entering one's own body? What issues of responsibility and authority exist, if any, when creating something based on actual events?

Balakian's new poetry collection, *Ziggurat* (University of Chicago Press) has at its center a 45-section long poem that contemplates the questions of memory, art, September 11 and its aftermath, in which Bob Woodruff's near-fatal injury in Iraq plays a significant part. Bob and Lee Woodruff's memoir *In An Instant*, about their lives and the Iraq war—was a best seller and a sensation in 2007. Ed Kashi's documentary and experimental photojournalism combines artistic impulses with the desire to document contemporary sociopolitical issues. His work will be on display, including a screening of his groundbreaking *Iraqi Kurdistan Flipbook*.

WHO:	Peter Balakian, Bob Woodruff and Lee Woodruff
WHAT:	A gallery exhibition, screening, reading, & discussion
WHERE:	25 CPW (62 nd Street & Central Park West)
WHEN:	September 16 th , 7 pm
WHY:	to mark the 9 th anniversary of 9/11 & the Invasion of Afghanistan & publication of <i>Ziggurat</i>
PRICE:	Free

Peter Balakian is the author of *Ziggurat* (Sept, 2010) and the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor in Humanities and professor of English at Colgate University. He is the author of five previous books of poems including *June-tree: New and Selected Poems 1974–2000*, and three prose works, including *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, a *New York Times* best seller, and *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize for memoir. His work has been translated into a dozen languages. More at peterbalakian.com. He is available for interviews.

Lee Woodruff co-wrote *In an Instant*. She is the life and family contributor for ABC's *Good Morning America* and the author of *Perfectly Imperfect: A Life in Progress*. She is on the board of trustees of the Bob Woodruff Family Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides critical resources and support to our nation's injured service members, veterans, and their families, especially those affected by the signature hidden injuries of war: traumatic brain injury and combat stress.

Bob Woodruff co-wrote *In an Instant*. Woodruff joined ABC in 1996 and has since covered countless international stories, including the war in Afghanistan, life behind the curtain in North Korea, and the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. Within weeks of being named co-anchor of *World News Tonight* in January 2006, Woodruff was seriously injured by a roadside bomb that struck his vehicle near Taji, Iraq, while he was reporting on U.S. and Iraqi security forces in the area. Woodruff has since returned to air, reporting from around the globe and hosting the weekly eco-newscast, *Planet Earth*.

Ed Kashi is a photojournalist, filmmaker and educator dedicated to documenting the social and political issues that define our times. A sensitive eye and an intimate relationship to his subjects are the signatures of his work. Kashi's complex imagery has been recognized for its compelling rendering of the human condition. Kashi's editorial assignments and personal projects have generated six books, including *Curse of the Black Gold: 50 Years of Oil in the Niger Delta* and his latest, *Three*.

25CPW, located at 25 Central Park West in Manhattan, is an artist run gallery space which provides the opportunity for artists, curators, writers, and educators to engage with each other while simultaneously reaching out to neighborhood residents and the general public. Housed in a temporary vacant retail space, 25CPW is a place for exploration and conversation--featuring lectures, discussions, film screenings, poetry readings, performances, workshops and exhibitions.





Dohuk, Iraq 2005

On a ride in Dream City, an amusement park opened in 2002 in Dohuk City on the grounds of a former Iraqi military base where many Kurds had been tortured and killed.



Arbil, Iraq 2005