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## **A NEW EXHIBIT “MARK DI SUVERO: WORKS AND PROTEST”**

### **Stunning Images of di Suvero’s Sculpture by Photographer Richard Bellamy and a New Peace Tower at the Chicago Cultural Center June 8—Oct. 1, 2007**

Coming to the Chicago Cultural Center’s second floor Chicago Rooms, located at 78 E. Washington Street from June 8 through October 1, 2007 is **Mark di Suvero: Works and Protest**, an exhibition of stunning photography of di Suvero’s sculptures throughout the world, taken by the legendary art dealer, Richard (George) Bellamy. Also on view will be *Peace Tower*, a 20 foot high tower designed and built by di Suvero, featuring artwork by regional artists and activists, and documentary photographs by veterans, military personnel and journalists.

A prolific sculptor, di Suvero’s dynamic works have punctuated landscapes and urban environments for half a century. His arresting pieces have consistently drawn critical acclaim, confronting audiences with their audacious colors and shapes, and mesmerizing even the casual passer-by with their subtle energy and intricate proportion. Currently, five of his large-scale sculptures are on view in Millennium Park.

**Mark di Suvero: Works and Protest** is organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. Admission to the exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center is free.

In the Chicago Rooms’ first gallery, viewers will find “Mark di Suvero and Richard Bellamy,” an exhibition of more than 25 photographs of di Suvero’s works, culled from the hundreds of photos taken by Richard (George) Bellamy between 1975 and Bellamy’s death in 1998. Some images focus on the landscape, and reveal his deep understanding of color, as seen in details like the juxtaposition of an orange-colored sculpture against a blue sky. Others taken in European cities explore the relationship of sculpture to architecture. The photographs on display showcase both Bellamy’s passion for the sculpture, as well as provide viewers with new ways of understanding di Suvero’s work.

A Peace Tower project, created by di Suvero for this exhibition, will stand in the Chicago Rooms’ second gallery. In response to a call for participation, local artists, activists, veterans, military personnel and documentary photographers are now contributing artwork about peace and protest that will hang on di Suvero’s steel structure. The Peace Tower was originally created in 1966 in Los Angeles as a response to the Vietnam War, with 400 artists participating in the project. It was later re-created in 2006 for the Whitney Biennial in New York City as a response to the war in Iraq.

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Add 2/ "Mark di Suvero: Works and Protest"

Recent photos of the war in Iraq from the archives of Magnum Photos, VII and Nina Berman, along with additional Mark di Suvero sculptures, will round out the exhibition in the Chicago Rooms.

The exhibit acts as a companion to "Mark di Suvero/Millennium Park," the installation of five large-scale pieces of sculpture on view in Millennium Park through April 1, 2008. Framing the dramatic art and architecture of the Park and juxtaposed against the stainless steel lines of the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion and Great Lawn, di Suvero's soaring sculptures enhance one of Chicago's most popular public spaces—Millennium Park.

The public is encouraged to learn more about Mark di Suvero and his work. Staff members from Millennium Park and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs will offer free tours of the sculpture in the Park every Monday at 12:15 p.m. from June 11 through August 13, 2007. The tours will start in the North Boeing Gallery in Millennium Park and will last 45 minutes.

**Mark di Suvero: Works and Protest** is accompanied by a four-color coffee table book entitled Richard Bellamy - Mark di Suvero, which will be available at the Shop at the Cultural Center.

Mark di Suvero was born in Shanghai, China in 1933, where his father became part of the Italian consular service. At the outbreak of World War II, his family moved to San Francisco and he became a U.S. citizen. In New York in 1957, di Suvero began using scrap from demolished buildings to create what he called "cubist, open spatial sculptures." In 1960, he was injured in an accident at a day job which left him paralyzed. Confined to a wheelchair for a year, di Suvero learned to use an electric arc welder and began to show his first stainless steel work in a New York gallery. In the 1960's, he mastered the use of the crane, acetylene torch and welder, then, bought his own crane and began to use it to bend and assemble steel for his art. In the late 1960's, di Suvero worked on and off for over two years making sculpture in the Chicago area, creating several of his significant works from that period. Di Suvero's sculpture has been shown widely in the United States and Europe. He currently divides his time between large industrial studios in California, New York and Chalon-sur-Saone, France.

Viewing hours for **Mark di Suvero: Works and Protest** at the Chicago Cultural Center are Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Chicago Cultural Center is closed on holidays.

Exhibitions and related educational programming presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs at the Chicago Cultural Center are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

For more information about **Mark di Suvero: Works and Protest**, call 312.744.6630 (TTY: 312.744.2947) or visit [www.chicagoculturalcenter.org](http://www.chicagoculturalcenter.org). For more information about "Mark di Suvero/Millennium Park," visit [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org).

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Note to Press: Electronic Images Available Upon Request