



**PRESS RELEASE**

## ***Imperial War Museums presents Wim Wenders photography exhibition of Ground Zero as part of 9/11: Twenty Years On***

- ***Wim Wenders: Photographing Ground Zero to open at IWM London on 10 September, featuring five photographs taken in New York in November 2001 by the renowned photographer and filmmaker***
- ***Bonus episode of the IWM Institute's Conflict of Interest podcast to be released, looking at this hugely consequential moment in history***
- ***IWM launch global appeal for personal stories relating to 9/11 and its aftermath***

Imperial War Museums (IWM) will mark 20 years since the 9/11 terror attacks on the United States and explore its complex global legacy through [9/11: Twenty Years On](#). Central to the anniversary programme will be the exhibition *Wim Wenders: Photographing Ground Zero*, running from 10 September 2021 – 9 January 2022 at IWM London. Partly funded with the generosity of the Small Grants Program from the US Embassy, the exhibition will present five large scale photographs taken at Ground Zero in November 2001 by the Oscar-nominated German filmmaker, Wim Wenders.

These haunting and powerful images capture the scale of the devastation caused by the terror attacks and the huge rescue and recovery operation undertaken by the emergency services in the ensuing months as the gravity of these events left a new world in their wake. Reflecting on what he witnessed in New York, Wenders has said: *"My panoramic camera captured this amazing message: 'Something terrible, altogether infernal, has happened here. But please, let this not become a ground for more hate, let the lives that were taken here not become the reason for more bloodshed. Let this place be forever a symbol of peace and healing'."*

*9/11: Twenty Years On* will also see a bonus episode of the IWM's Institute's podcast series, *Conflict of Interest*, focusing on how the attacks of 9/11 have shaped the modern world and impacted our lives in countless ways. As with previous episodes, the podcast will pair IWM curators and special guests to explore some of the world's most complicated contemporary conflicts. Confirmed participants for this episode include Dr Shiraz Maher of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation at King's College London and Mohsin Hamid, author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Exit West*. The episode will be available to listen to on Spotify, Apple, Google/Android as well as a podcast player on the IWM Institute homepage in early September 2021.

As the world continues to grapple with the aftermath of 9/11, IWM has launched a worldwide appeal for personal stories to illustrate and better understand the global and enduring relevance of 9/11. Submissions to [9/11: A Global Story](#) can include text, images and audio relating to what unfolded on 9/11 and in the 20 years since.

Commenting on the project, IWM's Head of Contemporary Conflict, Louise Skidmore, said: *"Some of us can recall exactly where we were when we heard the news that a plane had struck the North Tower, others have learnt about the attacks second-hand and all of us have seen and experienced the aftershocks of 9/11 in one*

*way or another, whether it be the way we travel or how we've voted in elections. We want to start a global conversation about how the events of 9/11 have come to reshape the world we live in by encouraging people to share their memories and stories with IWM's 9/11: A Global Story public appeal to help us see how this moment in history continues to reverberate across the globe, two decades later."*

Visitors to IWM branches can also explore our collection of objects, multimedia displays, photography and stories relating to 9/11 and other periods of contemporary conflict which occurred as a consequence. This includes large sections of steelwork from the collapsed World Trade Center at IWM London, IWM North and IWM Duxford, a damaged Land Rover battlefield ambulance retrieved from Iraq at IWM Duxford, and a CamelBak, displayed at IWM North, belonging to a British soldier with three bullet holes caused by a firefight with the Taliban during an operation in Helmand, Afghanistan in 2010.

A selection of images to download can be found [here](#).

### **Notes to editors**

**For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:**

Hannah Llewellyn-Jones, Communications Manager (Commercial) at 07869 406 425/

[HLlewellynjones@iwm.org.uk](mailto:HLlewellynjones@iwm.org.uk)

Imogen Sebba, Communications Officer (Commercial) at 07920 443 028 / [ISebba@iwm.org.uk](mailto:ISebba@iwm.org.uk)

### **IWM**

[www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are IWM London, which will open extensive new Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries in October 2021; IWM North, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; IWM Duxford, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; Churchill War Rooms, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser HMS Belfast.