



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9/11: Through Young Eyes

September 8 – October 8, 2011

In the fall of 2001 the Whitney Museum presented an exhibition of Jacob Lawrence's work, including his sixty-panel Migration Series. Eighth grade students at The Calhoun School saw the exhibit and, influenced by Lawrence's portrayal of complex events in American history, collaboratively tackled the telling of their own recent history—the aftermath of 9/11 as they were experiencing it. Ten years later, this visual narrative remains a moving and insightful testament to the personal and global impact of the World Trade Center attacks. Now, DC Moore Gallery is presenting the first public exhibition of the series of 31 collages created by the 13-year-old New York City students.

Lawrence's *Migration Series* (1940-41) tracked the widespread movement of African Americans from the agricultural South to the industrial North that began during World War I. Lawrence drew from first-hand knowledge to create the series, capturing the unique experience of individuals while communicating the complicated, underlying causes and effects of the migration. Coupled with concise, descriptive prose sentences, his paintings utilize the pared-down forms and bold colors of modernism to communicate a powerful historical narrative. Lawrence chose the Great Migration as his subject because he felt it was "important as a part of the evolution of America," something that affected "the whole of America mentally, economically, and socially."

Certainly the same is true of 9/11.

For the students who created the collages in this exhibition, 9/11--which coincided with their first day of eighth grade—became the defining event for the world they were growing up in. The 31 collages, coupled with succinct captions, trace the events of 9/11 as the students witnessed them, from the moments immediately following the attacks to what followed soon after—the war in Afghanistan and the increased security measures we continue to grapple with today.

The collages convey unsettling observations and experiences: empty streets, missing persons posters, and fighter jets overhead. At the same time, they express a sense of community and resiliency: first responders, candlelight vigils, blood donation, and the ubiquity of the flag. The students also used the collages to critically confront difficult issues. One caption reads: *Muslims were dehumanized*, another: *People started using the flag*

as a *symbol of war*. By adapting Lawrence's artistic innovations to their own contemporary story, the students created a moving visual document whose immediacy and poignancy remain undiminished.

9/11 Through Young Eyes was an interdisciplinary project coordinated by teachers Helen Bruno and Jessica Houston, inspired by a workshop organized by Facing History and Ourselves, a non-profit educational organization devoted to combating bigotry and nurturing democracy.

Founded in 1896, The Calhoun School is a progressive independent school, located on Manhattan's Upper West Side, for children in pre-K through twelfth grades.

DC Moore Gallery specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is located at 535 West 22nd Street, 2nd Floor and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 6. Press previews can be arranged prior to the exhibition.

The Calhoun School's *9-11 Through Young Eyes*

For more information about the project, please contact Beth Krieger, Director of Communications, The Calhoun School, 212-497-6527, beth.krieger@calhoun.org.

DC Moore Gallery

For more information, for photographs, or to arrange a viewing, please call Kate Weinstein at 212-247-2111.