

IMAGINE PEACE

Imagine all the people living life in peace
John Lennon

A dream you dream alone is only a dream
A dream you dream together is reality
Yoko Ono

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[IMAGINE PEACE TOWER](#) will be relit at 8pm on 9th October 2011. Tweet your wishes to [@IPTower](#) New York Festivals: Best Music Special (USA): John Lennon: Gimme Some Truth – A 70th Birthday Celebration with Yoko Ono

[Yoko Ono: IMAGINE PEACE billboard \(Holly St & Sheam St \(I-45N & I-10\), Houston, Texas\)](#)

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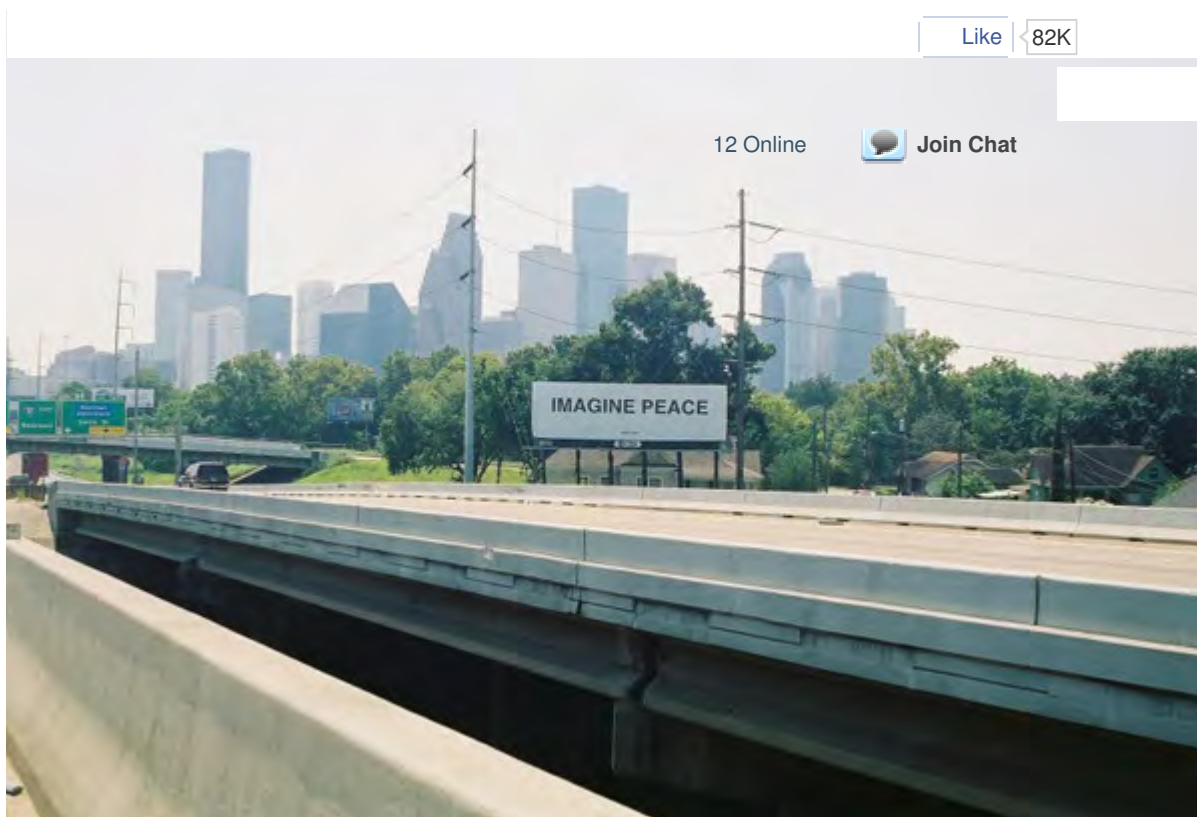
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Yoko Ono's billboard IMAGINE PEACE enlightens the Houston skyline

Yoko Ono's public masterpiece reissued to September events and 9-11 Memorial
(An extension of "Positive Perceptions" exhibition in Colton & Farb Gallery – Houston)

Billboard unveils September 5th, 2011 through mid-October
North Freeway (I-45 North), 500 feet South of I-10, Houston, Texas

On the 5th of September in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of 9-11 and the opening of Positive Perceptions exhibition at Colton & Farb Gallery plus right before the first Houston Fine Arts Fair ten days later, the provocative artwork IMAGINE PEACE will be unveiled on a commercial billboard along highway I-45 and I-10 East going into downtown Houston.

The Billboard is sponsored by Deborah M. Colton of Colton & Farb Gallery in Houston in conjunction with their Positive Perceptions exhibition that Yoko Ono is included in. With a size of 14 by 48 feet, the starkly visible billboard will be seen by thousands of commuters everyday bringing and unexpected art experience to the daily commercial environment.

Yoko Ono produced IMAGINE PEACE for New York City in 2001, responding to September 11th World Trade Center tragedy. Deceptively simple with its basic black and white palette the billboard engages the thoughts of the viewer on an almost subliminal level, inevitably provoking discussion of current events. At a time now when the news, movies and videogames often draw audiences into seductive worlds of warfare, Ono offers us a refreshing reversal of perspective.

Ono created her first billboard piece, WAR IS OVER! IF YOU WANT IT, with her husband John Lennon in 1969 and posted it in 12 cities worldwide to protest the war on Vietnam. The concurrent Bed-In for Peace events where John and Yoko received visitors while lying in bed during their honeymoon took place in Amsterdam and again in Montreal, making their wedding

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movement through her art and music in all continents, with many important projects about to unfold this fall also.

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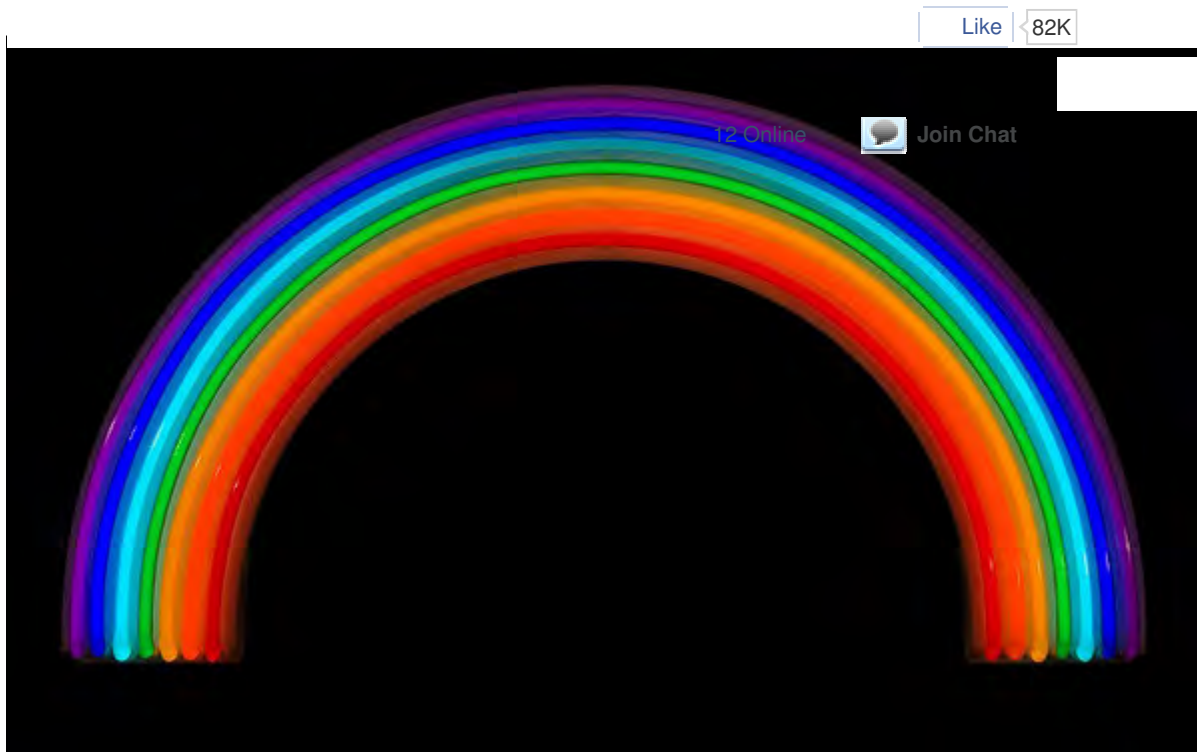
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Deborah M. Colton had brought the IMAGINE PEACE billboard first to Houston at the same location September of 2006 at the time of the Gallery's WORD show. "We are delighted to be working with Yoko Ono and bringing the IMAGINE PEACE billboard to the city of Houston again... the fourth largest in the country where the arts are strong and in the State of Texas that is dynamic, entrepreneurial and vibrant, says Deborah Colton, founder of the Deborah Colton Gallery, now Colton & Farb Gallery in Texas. "Ono's ability to subvert advertising for the purposes of art demonstrates the power that conceptual art can have.

The Positive Perceptions exhibition runs from September 10th to November 5th. The Billboard and the exhibition reveal that art is free for those who will engage with it in the minds and their hearts. Positive Perceptions, featuring such artists as Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet, Jonas Mekas and Texas artists McKay Otto, JD Miller and Philip J. Romano also, is about HOPE, LIGHT, LOVE... and bringing more positive connectivity into our world's human condition.

As Colton states, "Yoko Ono's IMAGINE PEACE speaks on so many levels: peace in your own being, peace in your relationships or global peace. It comes back to John Lennon's song IMAGINE. It's simple but powerful. It's not confrontational but it's about promoting positive change This art piece like the others in this Positive Perceptions exhibition reveal that through our having the right perspective, we CAN all make a positive difference in the world, just by relating to each other in the right perspective."

Deborah Colton Gallery, which is the Colton Farb Gallery in Texas, is founded on being an innovation showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.



Positive Perceptions

September 10th – November 5th, 2011

ROBERT INDIANA WILLIAM JOHN KENNEDY JONAS MEKAS J D MILLER
YOKO ONO MCKAY OTTO PHILIP J ROMANO ULTRA VIOLET

Colton & Farb Gallery is pleased to announce Positive Perceptions, a group exhibition, curated by Deborah M. Colton. Positive Perceptions opens Saturday, September 10, 2011 with a public reception with the artists from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. As part of the exhibition, the Yoko Ono IMAGINE PEACE public art installation is prominently displayed on a major highway billboard going into downtown where hundreds of thousands of people will view it each day.

If you can SEE what is in the future for you in positive ways, it can BECOME. The exhibition reveals the extent that art with a positive vision can influence perceptions and make an impact on the current human condition. It is reality. It CAN make a difference and artists like Yoko Ono and Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet have exemplified this world wide. The Texas artists with a following regionally that have been included in the show have equally important visions, and their voice should be heard.

In the 1960's, Robert Indiana created a vision of LOVE at a time when the United States was at war. Indiana's LOVE sculpture inspired John Lennon to write the song for the Beatles, "All You Need Is Love". Jonas Mekas, known as an artist, filmmaker, art critic, curator and icon of contemporary American Culture, documented this era through his acclaimed independent film and still frame photography featuring Yoko and John during "Happy Birthday John" and "Bed-In for PEACE". William John Kennedy documented at the same time the then young and inspired artists, Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet and Andy Warhol. Although the exhibition starts with this foundation in the 1960's, it shows how the same ideas now transcend into the 21st century as a new vision going into the future.

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traces its roots back to John and Yoko's "IMAGINE" and "THE WAR IS OVER if you want it to be" while still remaining contemporary and relevant. Ultra Violet keeps her focus on I

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Robert Indiana has always envisioned that his four letters can help change the world in the future. Thus his instincts told him more recently that times are ripe for a new vision of HOPE. "HOPE is very special. It is both a noun and a verb. These four simple letters can be so powerful. It's the way they are arranged as a sculpture. The O leaning forward in my sculptures reveals we all lean forward into the future with an open heart and HOPE for a more peaceful world."

Yoko Ono, an artist, composer, poet, celebrity, activist, a visionary who believes if you dream the same dream with others, that dream can turn into reality...and the power she places in simple words to uplift humanity has reached billions of people worldwide. Her belief in the power of the mind to create good through positive visualization is an art form she perfected from her fluxus-conceptualist background since the sixties. Since then Yoko Ono has been a leader in the PEACE movement through her art and music in all continents, with many important projects about to unfold this fall also.

The IMAGINE PEACE billboard first came to Houston September of 2006 in conjunction with the Deborah Colton Gallery's WORD show on a large commercial billboard going into downtown Houston at the intersection of I-45 and I-10. The unveiling of the IMAGINE PEACE billboard caught Houston by surprise. Within days, all local TV stations were featuring the billboard, as was the written press. At the time when national security and airport checks were tightened even further in September of 2006, the Gallery received literally hundreds of phone calls and emails with people emotionally touched by what those two simple words did for the tone of the city, with many people wanting to contribute to make this public space art billboard a permanent installation.

Since then, Yoko Ono's PEACE movement has grown even stronger. In 2007 Yoko Ono unveiled IMAGINE PEACE TOWER, which is located on Viðey Island in Reykjavík, Iceland and is dedicated to her late husband John Lennon. Yoko Ono shared her affirmation "the IMAGINE PEACE TOWER will give light to the strong wishes of World Peace from all corners of the planet and give encouragement, inspiration and a sense of solidarity in a world now filled with fear and confusion. Let us come together to realize a peaceful world."

IMAGINE PEACE TOWER will be lit this year from October 9th – December 8th and December 21st – 31st, 2011. Yoko Ono participated in the opening ceremony for the 2006 Winter Olympic reading a poem calling for peace in the world. Yoko Ono continues to exhibit her installation Wish Trees in different cities all over the world- asking the audience members to contribute their wish to help heal our planet. Eventually all of the wishes from Wish Trees will be collected and they will be incorporated into IMAGINE PEACE TOWER in the future. There are now over a million collected wishes from all of the world.

Yoko Ono recently received the Hiroshima Art Prize and opened her exhibition THE ROAD OF HOPE at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art in Japan.

Andy Warhol Factory super star, Ultra Violet is debuting a new series of text-based neon works, with each word being a different color from the rainbow. "These neon words bring LIGHT, both conceptually and aesthetically. LIGHT is essential and there is no greater embodiment of light and optimism than the rainbow. Rainbows provide a universal inspiration to many since they always come after a dark storm to reveal the beauty of a normal day. Rainbows are free, can be seen all over the world and have no social, racial or economic boundaries", Ultra Violet says. She feels that by accepting and acknowledging the dark, but overpowering it with a vision of good and light, that we as a society have the capacity to create universal peace and harmony by going to a [+ Donate to Japan](#)

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can rise above this with LIGHT. Ultra Violet is featured this Fall Season also at the Moscow Museum of Art and several institutions throughout New York for her work based on

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More regionally, Texas Artists, JD Miller and Philip J. Romano have created Reflectionism to define their role as artists today. To JD Miller: "I call myself a Reflectionist artist because I believe that the universe mirrors each of us in a unique way. My goal is to interpret that phenomenon. The concept is what you give out to the universe is what you get back. This is based on a theory, in its most basic form, that says "what you think is what you get." It's that simple. You can create your own reality....The universe is like an infinite holographic projection room."

McKay Otto, also a Texas artist, uses light as an essential ingredient in his work, tapping its wide-ranging associations – spirituality, divinity, illusion, impermanence, inspiration, hope, and energy. The transparent surfaces of Otto's paintings invoke the presence of something sacred or transcendent, like a living embodiment of light which McKay describes as transcending beyond. Appealing to viewers who believe in art's transformative power, McKay's works allow us to see our faith in art reflected back without judgment or intercession. Offering no political viewpoint and telling no story, but are a purely visual self-sustaining language that causes the viewer to consider the fabric of reality, the space/time construct, and the nature of perception.

As Deborah Colton, who has hosted exhibitions from many continents of the world, including the Arab World states, "Art can touch the deepest depths of our souls and is a universal language which has the power to uplift and connect all of humankind. Positive Perceptions is a combination of many enlightened and sensitive artists who feel it is their responsibility in life to share their vision through their art to try to make a positive difference in the world. At the time of the ten year memorial of the September 11th 2001 tragedy, we felt it was important to do our small part to feature just a few of the millions of artists worldwide who feel this way".

Colton & Farb Gallery is part of Deborah Colton Gallery, which is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, performance and conceptual future media installations.

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Yoko Ono: IMAGINE PEACE billboard (Holly St & Sheam St (I-45N & I-10), Houston, Texas)
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September 23, 2011

Liberating Viewers, and the World, With Silliness

By KEN JOHNSON

Fed up with being hounded by the New York State attorney general's office over alleged zoning violations in the early 1970s, [George Maciunas](#), the real estate developer, graphic artist and leading light of Fluxus, the international network of Conceptual artists, created an artwork that doubled as a defense against subpoena-wielding enforcers. He attached four industrial-size paper-cutting blades to the grungy yellow front door of his Manhattan apartment.

In a 1975 issue of his Fluxus Newsletter, Maciunas (pronounced ma-CHEW-nus) described his "event in progress," or "Flux Combat with New York State Attorney (& police)." Therein he itemized his "arsenal of weapons," which consisted of "humorous, insulting and sneering letters to the attorney general" and his "Flux Fortress," which included the bladed front door and, for intruders who got past that, booby traps and "funny messages" left behind trick doors and hatches.

That front door is now on view in "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life," at the Grey Art Gallery, New York University. It is a historically fascinating and excellently produced show of works that mostly masked revolutionary intentions behind deceptively modest, small-scale pieces of assemblage, print making, performance and wordplay.

What Fluxus was is a matter of some debate. Was it an art movement, an anti-art movement, a sociopolitical movement or, as the artists themselves tended to protest, not a movement at all?

Anyway, it did have a name, conceived by Maciunas (1931-78) in 1962, and a philosophy, which basically argued against all fixed notions about everything, including the cult of genius and the

distinction between art and life. It involved a regular cast of players, including [Nam June Paik](#), [La Monte Young](#), [George Brecht](#), [Alison Knowles](#) and Yoko Ono. These and some 50 others are represented in this show.

Organized by the art historian Jacquelyn Baas for the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, where it made its [debut last spring](#), the exhibition displays more than 100 objects, documents, ephemera and films. It is laid out thematically — according to questions like “Art (What’s It Good For)?,” “Nothingness?,” “Death?” and “Love?” — bringing considerable lucidity to a genre that can seem otherwise bewilderingly diverse and elliptical.

You could think of Fluxus as an international, utopian conspiracy to alter the world’s collective consciousness in favor of noncompetitive fun and games and other peaceable and pleasurable pursuits. Their weapons of choice were feeble jokes, verbal and visual puns, satiric publications and instructions for absurd performances. Bypassing the commercial gallery system, Fluxus novelties were meant to be sold cheaply by mail and in artist-run stores.

Many works were in the form of “Fluxkits”: transparent plastic, compartmentalized boxes containing small found objects. Maciunas’s “Excreta Fluxorum” (1973) is a collection of droppings from various animals, including cockroaches, turtles and rabbits. A compartment for a unicorn contains a white glass marble. Thus the method of Fluxus madness: use silliness to liberate the viewer from the usual categories of knowledge and the structures of power that keep them in place.

Fluxus can seem insular in its wry Conceptualism, but it was spiritually in tune with the anarchic wing of the 1960s counterculture represented most famously by Abbie Hoffman and Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters. In that regard the show does little to set Fluxus in the broader social context of its time. But an informative separate exhibition in the Grey’s lower gallery examines where it fits in art historically.

Organized by Julia Robinson, an assistant professor of art history at New York University, “Fluxus at NYU: Before and Beyond” includes works by Jackson Pollock, John Cage and Robert Rauschenberg; a delightful film of a performance by [Stuart Sherman](#); photographs of Happenings; a pair of pears cast in shiny aluminum in 1964 by the Fluxus artist [Robert Watts](#); and lots of fascinating textual material.

Fluxus art was rarely overtly political. An exception is a poster by Maciunas from about 1966 in the form of an American flag, titled “U.S.A. Surpasses All Genocide Records.” The red stripes are made of letters spelling out murderous statistics for Kublai Khan, Spain, Stalin, the Nazis and the United States.

More typically understated is a wooden box by [Robert Filliou](#), “Optimistic Box No. 1” (1968). A pink title label on top reads, “thank god for modern weapons”; inside are a rock and another label that says, “we don’t throw weapons at each other any more.” Today the first thing many viewers will think of might be the [pet rock](#) of the 1970s, not the Vietnam War.

Despite their contrarianism, Fluxus attitudes were readily assimilable, superficially at least, by popular culture. A mock tabloid created by Geoffrey Hendricks announcing the 1978 death of Maciunas was illustrated by a photographic montage picturing him in papal regalia over a caption explaining his outfit as “one of his many disguises used to elude the attorney general.” This was long before The [Onion](#) newspaper hit the streets. (With his features like “Stupid Pet Tricks” and “Will It Float?” David Letterman could be a secret Fluxus artist.)

Today the most famous of all Fluxists is Ms. Ono, who now has a [billboard](#) pleading “Imagine Peace” towering over a highway in Houston. She conceived it 10 years ago in response to the events of 9/11. Unfortunately, it has not lost its poignant relevance.

“Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life” and “Fluxus at NYU: Before and Beyond” are on view through Dec. 3 at the Grey Art Gallery, New York University, 100 Washington Square East, Greenwich Village; (212) 998-6780, nyu.edu/greyart.

“Imagine Peace” Billboard Returns to Houston for Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

Posted on [September 8, 2011](#) by [PR](#)



Photo by Deborah Colton

Starting early this morning, Houston downtown commuters could see the simple, two-word phrase that has become symbolic of positive thinking in times of crisis, “Imagine Peace,” hovering on a billboard above I-45. The billboard, a public art installation designed by Yoko Ono (and based on John Lennon’s legendary song “Imagine”) in the aftermath of 9/11, is sponsored by Deborah Colton of Colton & Farb Gallery. The installation both commemorates the tenth anniversary of 9/11 and coincides with the gallery’s “Positive Perceptions” exhibition, a reflective show featuring artists including Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet and Jonas Mekas and focusing on themes of hope, light and love.

This entry was posted in [News](#) and tagged [yoko_ono](#) by [PR](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#) [<http://www.beatles-unlimited.com/2011/09/08/imagine-peace-billboard-returns-to-houston-for-tenth-anniversary-of-911/>].

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Yoko Ono

Written by Deborah M. Colton

Yoko Ono, an artist, composer, poet, celebrity, activist, a visionary who believes if you dream the same dream with others, that dream can turn into reality...and the power she places in simple words to uplift humanity has reached billions of people worldwide.

Her belief in the power of the mind to create good through positive visualization is an art form she perfected from her fluxus-conceptualist background since the sixties. Imagine.

Yoko Ono's use of various public space media to produce positive antiwar messages started with the creation of her first billboard art

piece, *WAR IS OVER! IF YOU WANT IT*, with her husband John Lennon in 1969, whereby this public space art was posted in over 12 cities worldwide to protest the war in Vietnam. The concurrent Bed-In for Peace events where John and Yoko received visitors while lying in bed during their honeymoon took place in Amsterdam and again in Montreal, making their wedding a celebration of hope for peace throughout the world.

In Houston, Yoko Ono's art has been visible for years now. Ironically, at the time of the September 11th, 2001 tragedy, Yoko Ono had a solo exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (July

13th to September 16th) titled *YES YOKO ONO*, which featured the *WAR IS OVER! IF YOU WANT IT* billboard prominently displayed in the installation. This profound and comprehensive exhibition debuted at the Japan Society, New York, from October 18, 2000 to January 14, 2001 and then toured to many art institutions in the United States and other countries. After September 11th, 2001, there is no doubt the exhibition took on a whole new dimension of meaning to all viewers in the world.

Since then Yoko Ono has been a leader in the PEACE movement through her art and music in all continents, with many important projects about to unfold this fall.

Photo by Tom Haller, © Yoko Ono

When interviewing Yoko Ono, we asked:

What excites you the most about this movement and your current work?

For me, *IMAGINE PEACE* is the most important movement now.

How do you feel consciousness and ideas about peace have shifted in the last 10 years?

We are all wanting World Peace as soon as possible!

What is the most vulnerable part of living your art?

I don't think it is vulnerable at all. Living *IMAGINE PEACE* is a very powerful thing to do.

What is at the heart/essence of why you create?

I create because I love to.

What's the most powerful thing an individual can do to promote peace personally and globally?

An individual must decide what is the most powerful thing for he/she to do.

Why are these simple words received in such a powerful, profound way?

Because the most important thing for us to do is usually quite simple... like breathing.

Interview by Maranda Pleasant



Yoko Ono and John Lennon, Montreal Bed-In, 1969, Photo by Ivor Sharp, ©Yoko Ono

Yoko Ono produced the *IMAGINE PEACE* billboard for New York City in 2001, responding to the September 11th, World Trade Center tragedy. Deceptively simple with its basic black and white palette, the billboard engages the thoughts of the viewer on an almost subliminal positive level, inevitably provoking discussion of current events. At a time now when the news, movies and video games often draw audiences into seductive worlds of warfare, Ono continues to offer us a refreshing reversal and positive perspective.

The *IMAGINE PEACE* billboard first came to Houston, September of 2006 in

conjunction with the Deborah Colton Gallery's *WORD* show on a large commercial billboard going into downtown Houston at the intersection of I-45 and I-10. The unveiling of the *IMAGINE PEACE* billboard caught Houston by surprise. Within days, all local TV stations were featuring the billboard, as was the written press. At the time when national security and airport checks were tightened even further in September of 2006, the Gallery received literally hundreds of phone calls and emails with people emotionally touched by what those two simple words did for the tone of the city, with many people wanting to contribute to making this public space art billboard a permanent installation.

Since then, Yoko Ono's *PEACE* movement has grown even stronger. In 2007 Yoko Ono unveiled *IMAGINE PEACE TOWER*, which is located at Viðey Island in Reykjavík, Iceland and is dedicated to her late husband John Lennon. Yoko Ono shared her affirmation, "The *IMAGINE PEACE TOWER* will give light to the strong wishes of World Peace from all corners of the planet and give encouragement, inspiration and a sense of solidarity in a world now filled with fear and confusion. Let us come together to realize a peaceful world." *IMAGINE PEACE TOWER* will be lit this year from **October 9th – December 8th and December 21st - 31st, 2011.**

Continued on next page



Yoko Ono, *WAR IS OVER!*, Billboard, Times Square, New York, 1969, © Yoko Ono



Yoko Ono, *IMAGINE PEACE TOWER*, Videy Island, Reykjavik, Iceland, Photo by TetsuRo Hamada, Courtesy of Yoko Ono



Yoko Ono, *WAR IS OVER!*, Taxi top ads, New York, December 2009, Sponsored by Art Production Fund, © Yoko Ono

Yoko Ono participated in the opening ceremony for the 2006 Winter Olympics reading a poem calling for peace in the world. She continues to exhibit her installation *Wish Trees* in different cities all over the world - asking the audience members to contribute their wish to help heal our planet. Eventually

all of the wishes from *Wish Trees* will be collected and they will be incorporated into *IMAGINE PEACE TOWER* in the future. There are now over a million collected wishes from all over the world. Yoko Ono recently received the Hiroshima Art Prize and opened her exhibition *THE ROAD OF*

HOPE at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art in Japan. She also has exhibited in the Yokohama Triennale in Japan and in the upcoming September 11 Group Show at PS1.

In Houston, on the **5th of September** this fall, in anticipation of the 10th anniversary



Yoko Ono, Photo by Kevin Mazur, © Yoko Ono

of 9-11, the provocative artwork *IMAGINE PEACE* will be unveiled on a commercial billboard along highway I-45 and I-10 East going into downtown Houston, in the same place as in 2006. We are sponsoring the billboard again, in Houston, in conjunction with the Colton & Farb Gallery *Positive Perceptions* exhibition that Yoko Ono is included in. With a size of 14 by 48 feet, the starkly visible billboard will be seen by thousands of commuters everyday bringing and unexpected art experience to the daily commercial environment.

It is a delight to be working with Yoko Ono and bringing the *IMAGINE PEACE* billboard to the city of Houston again... the fourth largest city in the country where the arts are strong, dynamic, entrepreneurial and vibrant. Ono's ability to subvert advertising for the purposes of art demonstrates the power that conceptual art can have.

The billboard and the exhibition reveal that art is free for those who will engage with it in their minds and their hearts and helps bring more positive connectivity into our world's human condition. *IMAGINE PEACE* speaks on so many levels: peace in your own being, peace in your relationships and global peace. It comes back to John Lennon's song, "IMAGINE." It's simple but powerful. It's not confrontational but it's about promoting



positive change. This art piece, like the others in our *Positive Perceptions* exhibition, reveals that through our collective optimism and open-minded perspective, we CAN all make a positive difference in the world, just by relating to each other with the right attitude.

Above: *IMAGINE PEACE* Billboard, Houston, Texas, 2006

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IMAGINE PEACE billboard by Yoko Ono Re-Installed on Houston Freeway for 9/11 Anniversary
(<http://glasstire.com/2011/09/04/imagine-peace-billboard-by-yoko-ono-re-installed-on-houston-freeway-for-911-anniversary/>)

September 4th, 2011 – BILL DAVENPORT ([HTTP://GLASSTIRE.COM/AUTHOR/BILL-DAVENPORT/](http://GLASSTIRE.COM/AUTHOR/BILL-DAVENPORT/))



(<http://glasstire.com/2011/09/04/imagine-peace-billboard-by-yoko-ono-re-installed-on-houston-freeway-for-911-anniversary/ono-imagine-peace-2/>)

Remember the IMAGINE PEACE Billboard along I-45 north just before I-10? It was an artwork by peacenik Yoko Ono, brought to Houston by Deborah Colton gallery. Now, for the anniversary of 9/11, it's coming back. The 14x48 foot command will occupy the same freeway-side billboard as before, and will be unveiled September 6 in conjunction with Colton and Farb Gallery's Positive Perceptions show, which begins September 10.

The IMAGINE PEACE billboard first came to Houston September of 2006 in conjunction with the Colton Gallery's WORD show; within days, the press was all over it, and many people wanted to make it a permanent installation.

For Ono, it's an ongoing campaign: in 2007 she unveiled IMAGINE PEACE TOWER, in Reykjavik, Iceland. She participated in the opening ceremony for the 2006 Winter Olympic reading a poem calling for peace in the world. Her Wish Trees are installed in different cities all over the world,

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IMAGINE PEACE billboard by Yoko Ono Re-
Installed on Houston Freeway for 9/11
Anniversary
(<http://glasstire.com/2011/09/04/imagine-peace-billboard-by-yoko-ono-re-installed-on-houston-freeway-for-911-anniversary/>) - 2 days ago

asking audience members to contribute their wish to help heal our planet. Eventually all of the wishes from Wish Trees will be collected and they will be incorporated into IMAGINE PEACE TOWER in the future. There are now over a million collected wishes; presumably in a warehouse somewhere, like us, waiting.

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Houston: Yoko Ono billboard put on display to remember 9/11 attacks

by khou.com staff

khou.com

Posted on September 6, 2011 at 5:56 PM

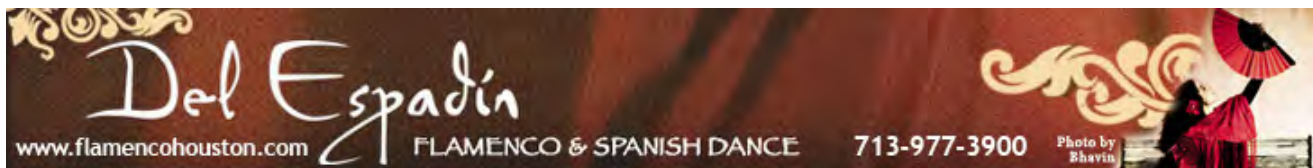
Starting Tuesday, an old work of Yoko Ono's will be on display on a commercial billboard along Highway 45 and Interstate 10 going into downtown.

The work, called Imagine Peace, was produced by Ono for New York City in 2001 in response to the September 11 attacks.

The billboard, measuring 14 by 48 feet, is sponsored by Deborah M. Colton of Colton & Farb Gallery in Houston in conjunction with their Positive Perceptions exhibition that Yoko Ono is included in.

It will be on display until mid-October.

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Yoko Ono's "Imagine Peace" Billboard Returns to Houston For Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

By Caroline Evans

published: Tue., Sep. 6 2011 @ 5:45PM

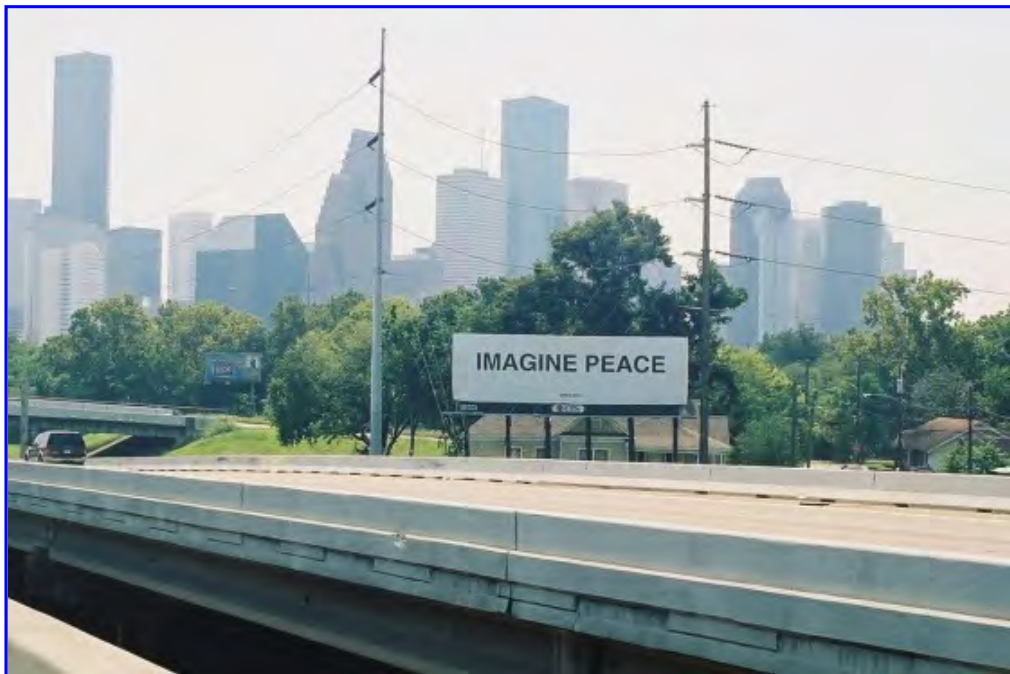


Photo by Deborah Colton

Starting early this morning, Houston downtown commuters could see the simple, two-word phrase that has become symbolic of positive thinking in times of crisis, "Imagine Peace," hovering on a billboard above I-45.

The billboard, a public art installation designed by Yoko Ono (and based on John Lennon's legendary song "Imagine") in the aftermath of 9/11, is sponsored by Deborah Colton of Colton & Farb Gallery.

The installation both commemorates the tenth anniversary of 9/11 and coincides with the gallery's "Positive Perceptions" exhibition, a reflective show featuring artists including Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet, Jonas Mekas and focusing on themes of hope, light and love.

"[The billboard] also comes at a time when I think it's important to say those two words," Colton tells Art

Attack.

Colton brought the billboard to Houston five years ago as part of the gallery's WORD show. People connect to the phrase, she says, because it can be interpreted in any number of ways--all of them positive. "It can be about finding inner peace, peace in relationships or about achieving worldwide peace." she says.

"Imagine Peace" will be up on I-45, 500 feet South of I-10, at least until October 5. "Positive Perceptions" runs September 10 through November 5, 2445 North Boulevard.

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Yoko Ono's billboard "Imagine Peace" to enlighten Houston's skyline

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Posted: Tuesday, September 6, 2011 10:26 am

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Today in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and the opening of Positive Perceptions exhibition at Colton & Farb Gallery plus right before the first Houston Fine Arts Fair 10 days later, the provocative artwork IMAGINE PEACE will be unveiled on a commercial billboard along highway I-45 and I-10 East going into downtown Houston.

The Billboard is sponsored by Colton & Farb Gallery in Houston. Their Positive Perceptions exhibition is included in. With a size of 14



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"Imagine Peace"

Today in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of 9-11 and the opening of Positive Perceptions exhibition at Colton & Farb Gallery plus right before the first Houston Fine Arts Fair 10 days later, the provocative artwork IMAGINE PEACE will be unveiled on a commercial billboard along highway I-45 and I-10 East going into downtown Houston.

visible billboard will be seen by thousands of commuters everyday bringing and unexpected art experience to the daily commercial environment.

Yoko Ono produced IMAGINE PEACE for New York City in 2001, responding to September 11th World Trade Center tragedy. Deceptively simple with its basic black and white palette the billboard engages the thoughts of the viewer on an almost subliminal level, inevitably provoking discussion of current events. At a time now when the news, movies and videogames often draw audiences into seductive worlds of warfare, Ono offers

us a refreshing reversal of perspective.

Ono created her first billboard piece, WAR IS OVER! IF YOU WANT IT, with her husband John Lennon in 1969 and posted it in 12 cities worldwide to protest the war on Vietnam. The concurrent Bed-In for Peace events where John and Yoko received visitors while lying in bed during their honeymoon took place in Amsterdam and again in Montreal, making their wedding a celebration of hope for peace throughout the world. Since then Yoko Ono has been a leader in the PEACE movement through her art and music in all continents, with many important projects about to unfold this fall also.

Deborah M. Colton had brought the IMAGINE PEACE billboard first to Houston at the same location September of 2006 at the time of the Gallery's WORD show. "We are delighted to be working with Yoko Ono and bringing the IMAGINE PEACE billboard to the city of Houston again... the fourth largest in the country where the arts are strong and in the State of Texas that is dynamic, entrepreneurial and vibrant, says Deborah Colton, founder of the Deborah Colton Gallery, now Colton & Farb Gallery in Texas. "Ono's ability to subvert advertising for the purposes of art demonstrates the power that conceptual art can have.

The Positive Perceptions exhibition runs from Sept. 10 to Nov. 5. The Billboard and the exhibition reveal that art is free for those who will engage with it in the minds and their hearts. Positive Perceptions, featuring such artists as Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet, Jonas Mekas and Texas artists McKay Otto, JD Miller and Philip J. Romano also, is about HOPE, LIGHT, LOVE... and bringing more positive connectivity into our world's human condition.

As Colton states, "Yoko Ono's IMAGINE PEACE speaks on so many levels: peace in your own being, peace in your relationships or global peace. It comes back to John Lennon's song IMAGINE. It's simple but powerful. It's not confrontational but it's about promoting positive change This art piece like the others in this Positive Perceptions exhibition reveal that through our having the right perspective, we CAN all make a positive difference in the world, just by relating to each other in the right perspective."

Deborah Colton Gallery, which is the Colton Farb Gallery in Texas, is founded on being an innovation showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.

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The opening of Positive Perceptions exhibition at **Colton & Farb Gallery** is Saturday Sept 10, right before the first **Houston Fine Arts Fair**.


The Billboard is sponsored by Deborah M. Colton of Colton & FarbGallery in Houston in conjunction with their Positive Perceptions exhibition in which Yoko Ono is included. With a size of 14 by 48 feet, the starkly visible billboard will be seen by thousands of commuters everyday bringing and unexpected art experience to the daily commercial environment.

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This is not the first time IMAGINE PEACE has been to Houston. Deborah M. Colton had brought the IMAGINE PEACE billboard first to Houston at the same location September of 2006 at the time of the Gallery's WORD show.

"We are delighted to be working with Yoko One and bringing the IMAGINE PEACE billboard to the city of Houston again... the fourth largest in the country where the arts are strong and in the State of Texas that is dynamic, entrepreneurial and vibrant,says Deborah Colton, founder of the Deborah Colton Gallery, now Colton & Farb Gallery in Texas. "Ono's ability to subvert advertising for the purposes of art demonstrates the power that conceptual art can have."

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The Positive Perceptions exhibition runs from September 10th to November 5th at the **gallery** on North Blvd in Rice Village. The Billboard and the exhibition reveal that art is free for those who will engage with it in the minds and their hearts. Positive Perceptions, featuring such artists as Robert Indiana, Ultra Violet, Jonas Mekas and Texas artists and a DISH fav McKay Otto, JD Miller and Philip J. Romano also, is about HOPE, LIGHT, LOVE... and bringing more positive connectivity into our world's human condition.

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