

# RECOVERY:

## THE WORLD TRADE CENTER RECOVERY OPERATION AT FRESH KILLS



Photo - Fresh Kills Landfill, August 2002

**Recovery** is a traveling exhibition that documents the historic project at the Fresh Kills Landfill that was in operation from September 2001 to July 2002 to recover human remains, personal objects, and material evidence from the collapse of the World Trade Center.



Object - Recovered souvenir from the World Trade Center



The New York State Museum is a program of The University of the State of New York  
The State Education Department

# RECOVERY

**On the night of September 12, 2001** the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island was designated a crime scene and trucks began arriving from Ground Zero with steel and crushed debris that was once the World Trade Center. Over the next ten months, an operation to recover human remains, personal effects and the objects of everyday life from 1.8 million tons of material was undertaken by the New York Police Department, an FBI evidence recovery team, twenty-five state and federal agencies, and fourteen private contractors. The story of this operation unfolds in many rare images and compelling objects that are now preserved for history. Thousands of detectives, agents, and forensic evidence specialists worked around the clock to recover remnants of the lives lost at the World Trade Center. Over 1.7 million hours were spent working at the landfill. The exhibition photographs, taken over several months, document the immense task.



Photo - U.S. Flag recovered at Fresh Kills Landfill, April 2002



Object- World Trade Center souvenir



Photo - Destroyed rescue vehicles, Fresh Kills Landfill, December 2001



Photo - FBI special agent, Fresh Kills Landfill, May 2002

# RECOVERY

**The exhibition includes fifty photographs** that trace the recovery operation progress, offering the viewer a rare glimpse of hidden history. Mountains of debris, workers at the sifting operations, the landscape of the operation, and recovered objects are the subjects of many images. The objects that travel with this exhibition represent the broad spectrum of material from the World Trade Center collapse, individual personal property items are not included.



Photo- Objects in the FBI forensic evidence shed



Object- Firearm, recovered in the World Trade Center 6, US Customs House, debris



Photo- Aircraft part at Fresh Kills Landfill



Object - Recovered souvenir from the World Trade Center



Photo- Pile of destroyed lampposts at Fresh Kills Landfill

# RECOVERY

## recovered

4,257 human remains, that have resulted in the identification of over 300 individuals to date

Approximately 4,000 personal photographs

\$78,318.47 in domestic and foreign currency

54,000 personal items such as identification cards and driver licenses

1,358 vehicles including 102 fire apparatus and 61 Police Department vehicles



Photo - Destroyed NYFD ladder truck



Photo - NYPD detectives inspecting World Trade Center debris



Photo - Car interior, Fresh Kills Landfill, April 2002



Object - Pistol recovered from World Trade Center debris

**Organized by areas of operation, the exhibition consists of these sections:**

**Introduction** to the recovery operation including map

**Landscape** – debris piles, vehicles, and sorters

**Evidence Recovery**  
aircraft fragments, architectural remnants, weapons, and everyday objects

**People** – NYPD, FBI, and Red Cross personnel

**Aftermath** – images of landfill after the operation was completed



Object - Firefighter's boot recovered at Fresh Kills



# RECOVERY

## contents

Three panoramic images  
(10' length) including views  
of the piles and sorting process,  
vehicles, and aftermath

Interpretive text panels and  
identification labels

10 photographs 30" x 40"

40 photographs 18" x 24"

Recovered artifacts  
(borrowing institutions  
must supply secure display cases)



Object - World Trade Center keys



Object - NYFD oxygen tank found in World Trade Center debris



Photo - Remains of a Rodin bronze sculpture formerly installed in Cantor Fitzgerald office in World Trade Center



Photo - Fresh Kills Landfill recovery operation, March 2002

# RECOVERY



Photo - Airplane specialist inspects aircraft fragments, Fresh Kills Landfill

## specifications

### Supplemental

Exhibition brochure

### Participation fee

\$15,000 for a 12-week  
booking plus inbound shipping

### Size

300 linear feet

### Security

moderate

### Tour dates

September 2003 through  
December 2006

### Scheduling

Nancy Kelley (518)474.0080 or  
nkelley@mail.nysed.gov



Object - Doll from a World Trade Center retail store



Photo - World Trade Center building debris at Fresh Kills Landfill



Objects - World Trade Center elevator floor signs

# RECOVERY:

## THE WORLD TRADE CENTER RECOVERY OPERATION AT FRESH KILLS A Traveling Exhibition from the New York State Museum

### This exhibition has been made possible by:

George E. Pataki,  
New York State Governor

New York State  
Office of General Services

New York Army National Guard

New York City Police Department

New York City Fire Department

Federal Bureau of Investigation

### With special thanks to:

The World Trade Center Fresh Kills  
Evidence Recovery Operation

New York City Department of  
Sanitation at the Fresh Kills Landfill

Phillips & Jordan, Inc.



Object - Airplane fragment



Photo - Aftermath image, Fresh Kills Landfill, September 2002



Object - Fire alarm box from the World  
Trade Center



Object - Side panel from destroyed NYFD vehicle



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