

contemporary

May 2002

NEW YORK

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As unlikely as it sounds, a contemporary public art project has been the subject of popular debate in New York this month, easily eclipsing art world events such as the 2002 Whitney Biennial in terms of generating widespread interest. Creative Time's 'Tribute in Light' World Trade Center memorial project was launched on the evening of March 11, six months after the terrorist attack, and will illuminate the sky just north of Ground Zero for a further four weeks. Discussions about a permanent memorial seem likely to continue for some time yet, but this work's combination of simplicity and grandeur has won its creators deserved praise. 'Tribute in Light' represents a collaborative effort by a number of people who arrived independently at a similar idea, including architects John Bennett, Gustavo Bonevardi and Richard Nash Gould, artists Julian LaVerdiere and Paul Myoda, and lighting designer Paul Marantz. The phantom towers are rendered by two banks of powerful searchlights which remain on from dusk until 11.00 p.m. every day.

Another Creative Time commission, Jim Campbell's *Primal Graphics 2002*, was launched on 30 February. Installed at The Ritz-Carlton New York in Battery Park (itself not far from Ground Zero), Campbell's work is the first in the agency's *Art on the Plaza* series. (Subsequent participants will include the likes of Yoshitomo Nara and Gary Hume.) Campbell, whose work was featured in the

Whitney's *Bitstreams* show last year and crops up again in this year's Biennial, presents an outdoor sculpture composed of 386 light bulbs arranged in two large grids. Flickering across these is the image of a walking figure. It looks primitive and seamless at the same time, making sophisticated use of a straightforward format to extract the ghost from the machine.

JIM CAMPBELL, *Primal Graphics*, 2002, part of *Art on the Plaza*, a project by Creative Time, www.creativetime.org.

Courtesy: Creative Time, New York

