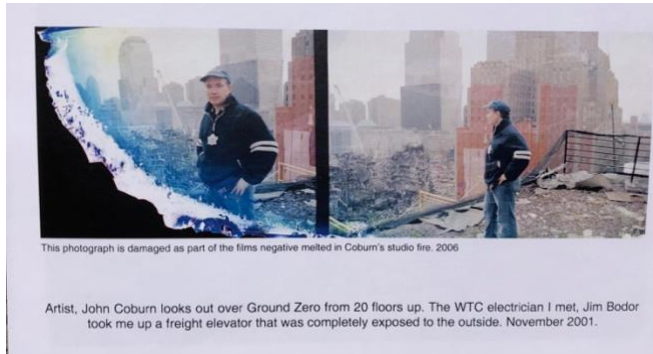


Healing Hearts: Canadian Artist JOHN COBURN's Journey from 9/11 to 2021

In the days following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, NYC officials gave acclaimed Canadian artist John Coburn rare, special access beyond the cordoned off areas to draw what he witnessed. Amid the debris and from overwhelming vantage points in and above Ground Zero, Coburn documented the unimaginable scenes.



Much like a modern-day war correspondent, he interviewed those at Ground Zero: including first responders, families and key community members. With his keen eye and artistic talent, he captured the aftermath, the determination of those involved in the rescue and the spirit and passion for recovery in heart-felt drawings.

“In 2001 after the horrific attacks on September 11, I couldn't watch it on TV anymore” says Artist John Coburn, “I made my way to Lower Manhattan and onto the premises of Ground Zero where I documented the aftermath of the love, care and support that took over the entire city. I drew everything I saw, and met the greatest people, who encouraged me and helped make “Healing Hearts” – a tribute in drawings - possible.”

New York City – September 11, 2001, Experience

New York City captured John's heart at an early age. Its energy and spirit has always called him back. On his numerous trips to NYC, over 25 years, he drew the city he loves, including the Twin Towers, so the news of 9/11 levelled him. He had to go. He had to be in the City that meant so much to him. He landed in the days after the towers fell, and headed to Ground Zero and began to draw. A NYC police officer ordered him to leave. When John showed his earlier drawings of the Twin Towers to the officer, he was immediately invited behind the lines and provided a special access pass.

He captured the scenes, he visited fire and police stations, attended respite stations, churches and was brought up an elevator in a building partially demolished in the disaster to gain a birds-eye-view of the scene. One could say that while New York already had John's heart, New York opened its heart to John and embraced him on those dark days.



Toronto – Coburn Art Studio Fire

His thirty-seven drawings of those days in New York City are a stunning and sacred memorial to those dark days, but before they were ever shared, fire totally gutted the building that housed John’s Toronto studio.



John Coburn's studio fire, 4:00 am September 21st, 2006, Toronto, Canada.

Of the several hundred drawings and paintings lost in Coburn's studio fire, the only items recovered were the original pen and ink drawings from the Healing Hearts book and related photographs and letters.

In what can only be described as a miracle, John directed fire fighters to where his 9/11 drawings were stored. They emerged within the leather portfolio holding the special art. The edges were singed, some burned more than others, but they were saved.

It was like they were so soaked in emotion; they couldn't burn.

Healing Hearts: Ongoing involvement, personal donations and support for the victims of 9/11

Coburn and Tom Beckett of Beckett Fine Art have made their way to NYC for many annual 9/11 memorials and John’s documented works have been celebrated in many ways, including:

- **Donation to NYC’s September 11 Memorial and Museum:** In 2016 on the 15th anniversary of 9/11, Coburn and Beckett Fine Art donated 27 framed original drawings to the permanent collection of the 9/11 Museum in New York City through the Canadian Consulate General in New York.



View the [twenty-seven of John’s original 9/11 drawings](#) donated to the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City.

John Coburn and his Art

Artist John Coburn, born in Hamilton, Ontario, currently residing in Toronto, has spent his life famously creating pen and ink drawings of the world around him.

Since 1978, John's works have been featured in over 60 exhibits, including international shows in New York, England, Ireland and Japan. For "Canada 150", John created drawings of iconic Canadian sites that were featured on The Second Cup's special edition red cups.



John Coburn Biography and Works

John has partnered with and been represented by Tom Beckett of Beckett Fine Art for over 40 years. To view John's current art, full bio and links to a sample of earlier national news stories: <https://www.beckettfineart.com/john-coburn>