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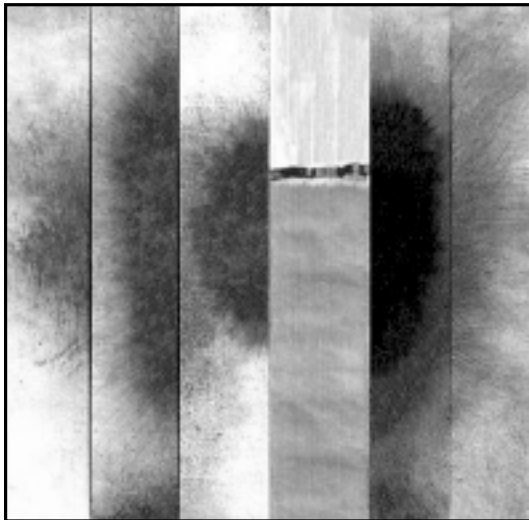
## Anna Socha VanMatre

March 14 - April 7, 2002

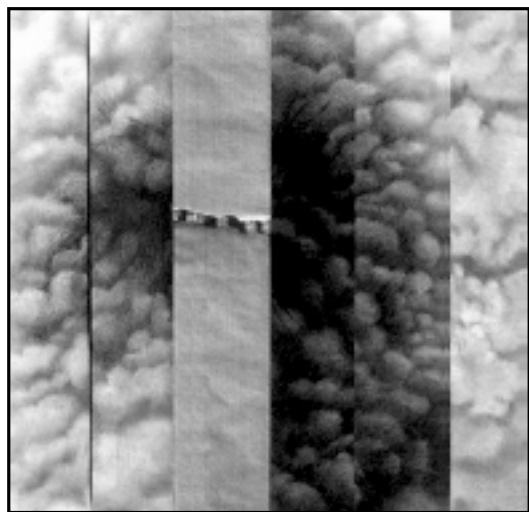
### "NO"

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Anna Socha VanMatre's paintings have been screaming to the viewer her shock and fear and sometimes hope since 1978. The realization that her post-September 11 works represent an extension of this cry for sanity, only makes their emotional statement more penetrating. Ms. VanMatre is a Polish born artist who constructs graphite paintings on monumental three-dimensional surfaces. Her works have been presented on many exhibitions in five countries and have been described by critics as "symphonies of blackness, gray and light" and



a significant step in "liberating" the drawing idiom. At an exhibition at the Jerusalem Center for the Arts, her installation was praised as much more than a series of static drawings, but instead "a thing of theatrical character, an interaction between the stage and the audience." Many of her paintings (some as large as 20 feet in height) utilize the potential of paper to be rolled, unrolled, torn, folded, and cut – not confining the paper to a life sentence behind glass. Titles such as HABITAT, LIMITS, NO, HOPE, METAMORPHOSES, and BEYOND THE EARTH CURTAINS reflect the artist's focus on the relationship between humanity and our environment. It is a world with myriad shades of black and gray, brightened by shafts of white light and a surprising use of color, which illuminates the power of runaway technology, the power of uncontrollable nature, the power of unfathomable inhumanity, yet also the power of beauty.



WTC Silver, from series "NO", 2001, 54" x 27", graphite on paper/collage

The series "NO", the title subject of her first New York show, has been one of the longest running series by Ms. VanMatre. Beginning in 1982, she stunned the public with themes of nuclear proliferation in graphite on 10 foot three-dimensional paper. Through the late 80's and early 90's, industrial pollution and dangerous technology were the focus. The horror of Chernobyl was the subject of "NO" in a group of 1993-96 gray and black works on torn and cut paper. In 1997, the series entered a new phase with the addition of color, suggesting fire, and serving in retrospect as an ominous prediction of the most recent graphite paintings. The 2001-02 version of the series says "NO" to terror and intolerance through a group of smaller three-dimensional vertical diptychs framed and covered by glass.

"NO" will run through April 7, 2002. An opening reception in the artist's presence will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2002 from 6 to 8 PM. Featured at the opening will be saxophonist and composer Rick VanMatre, performing music written in conjunction with the artist's work. Gallery@49 is located at 322 West 49th Street (between 8th and 9th Ave.) Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 6 pm. and by appointment. For further information and visual material please contact Monica Andreea Rotaru at 212.767.0855, or e-mail [info@gallery49.com](mailto:info@gallery49.com).