

**9/11 Exhibition of American Sentiment:
*Reactions: A Global Response to the 9/11 Attacks***

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Abstract

*This paper examines the religious tenor of American photography and other art forms that focus on the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in New York, some of which seem to couch the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in terms of an attack by a generalised Islam implicitly on an equally generalised Christianity (or perhaps Christendom?). I will consider the issue by regarding – in both senses – a selection of artworks gathered together in a New York exhibition, *Reactions: A Global Response to the 9/11 Attacks* (2002), with a brief parallel to Julia Loktev’s film *Day Night Day Night* (2006).*

It is the task of this paper to scratch, at least, at the entangled issue of individual expression / socially framed views and attitudes as regards American artists’ early responses to 9/11. However, I am aware both that no definitive and irrefutable answer could ever be provided to it and that, to a large extent, this may be the outcome of our socialisation and acculturation, with their implicit religious and political dimensions, which make it impossible to think and feel in fully personal terms.