

'Here and There' juxtaposes art and life after 9/11

By Michael Felci

For most of us, watching the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, unfold on television was horrible enough. But try being in a hotel room located across the street from the White House during those same angst-filled moments. Such was the case for local painter/photographer Ming C. Lowe.

A Washington, D.C., native, Lowe had just a day earlier embarked on what was supposed to be a photographic journey of the East Coast. Instead, she found herself in the middle of the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history.

Thus began what Lowe refers to as a "photographic exodus of sorts."

At the Capitol, she photographed the president's helicopter making a hasty landing while smoke billowed from the Pentagon in the background.

"I saw smoke outside my hotel room," she said. "I turned on CNN and saw the towers. I thought I had a Schwarzenegger movie on. I said 'Oh my god.' I couldn't figure out what was happening. It was a pretty awful feeling."

From Washington, D.C., Lowe

went on to New York, where she managed to shoot the devastation at Ground Zero.

"It took a little while to sink in I think," she says. "It wasn't until I got back to my little hotel room in New York that I actually began crying."

Now, Lowe has combined these disturbing images of Sept. 11 with equally haunting earlier work for what she calls "Here and There. 9/11"

"I'd taken some very interesting photos in both Egypt and Morocco," Lowe says. "I thought they could really be from anywhere, like Afganistan for instance. Because of the world events, the guns and the devastation, they would fit perfectly with the shots of Sept. 11."

Composed of black and white images with paintings, Lowe's "Here and There. 9/11" exhibition is set to debut on Friday, Sept. 3, and will run through Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Artspresso Cafe in Idyllwild.

"It's a very strange show," Lowe says. "But I really like this collection of work."

Lowe says the intention of "Here and There. 9/11" is to "show the viewer things they're not sup-



Photographer Ming C. Lowe shot this picture in Egypt.

posed to see, and to take them places they're not supposed to go," and very often she is quite successful at doing just that.

One of Lowe's most chilling shots is of a rogue militia in an abandoned prison yard in Idaho.

"These strange militia guys were training or something," Lowe remembers. "I was kind of scared, so I was trying to be invisible."

An equally haunting shot is of a seemingly out-of-place stray dog resting at the base of one of

Egypt's great pyramids.

"It's exciting to find interesting subjects," Lowe says. "It's like hunting for gold."

'HERE AND THERE.

9/11'

Show runs Fri.-Sun.,

Sept. 3-6

Artist's reception

2-6 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 4

Artspresso Gallery

54-380 N. Circle

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Idyllwild

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