

For immediate release: 16/09/04
MEDIA PHOTO CALL

Artist Yoko Ono will view part of her newly commissioned artwork, *My Mummy Was Beautiful*, at St Luke's Church.

Date: Friday 17 September 2004
Time: 2.00pm (30 minutes only)
Location: St Luke's Church, Berry Street, Liverpool

YOKO ONO AT LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL 2004

Yoko Ono, artist and composer, made her name as one of the most original performance and installation artists in the 1960s (she was responsible for a live art event at Liverpool's Bluecoat Arts Centre in September 1967) and is also viewed as one of the founders of conceptual art. She has been highly influential on younger and particularly women artists in the fields of live art, film, music and the underground club scene, both through the formal strength of her work and her dedication to the peace movement.

As the widow of John Lennon, she has been a benefactor of Liverpool, helping establish John's childhood home in Menlove Avenue as a National Trust property, and giving her support to the re-branding of Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Yoko Ono's project *My Mummy Was Beautiful 2004* is one of forty new artworks by forty artists conceived and commissioned for Liverpool Biennial's *INTERNATIONAL 04* exhibition.

The project consists of the widespread distribution in the city of two images: of a woman's breast and crotch. These parts of the mother's body are the earliest experience of the child. The artwork contrasts the innocence of childhood with the widespread use of the human body to market consumer goods and services.

" I was very delighted when asked to be part of the Liverpool Biennial. Liverpool is getting bigger and bigger in the eyes of the world by now being selected as the City of Culture. With the opening of the Biennial, it will become an important city on the map of the art world, too.

This work 'my mummy was beautiful' was initially about my mother. But when I decided to do it in Liverpool, suddenly I remembered how John loved his mother, and it choked me up. So this one in Liverpool will be my tribute to John.

I think it will look very beautiful spread over this highly energised, beautiful city, the one John loved so much, and the one I've grown to love." Yoko Ono Sept. 15th, 2004

Notes for Editors:

- The project can be linked with many earlier works by the artist that present an objectified and dislocated view of the body. For instance, *Cut Piece* 1964 was a performance in which members of the audience were invited to cut away the artist's clothing. A number of her films focus on bodily details, including Film No 4 *Bottoms* 1966, showing the naked bottoms of people walking. *In Celebration of Being Human*, realised in 1994 in Langenhagen, Germany, used images of bottoms to displace political campaign posters and saturated every advertising site throughout the small town, as well as being distributed through newspaper advertising, postcards, umbrellas etc.
- The ruined St Lukes Church was bombed in WWII and has been preserved as a war memorial. There are proposals to build a new Peace Centre on the site.