



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2000

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**Public Art Fund in collaboration with Deitch Projects presents...**

## **Vanessa Beecroft VB42 Intrepid**

**The Silent Service  
in collaboration with The Undersea Warfare Community**

*A Live Event on the Deck of the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum  
and an off-site component of the 2000 Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of Art, New York*

***April 21, 2000***

**New York, NY** – VB42 Intrepid is the culmination of an unprecedented collaboration between Vanessa Beecroft and the US Navy. Beecroft and the US Navy have worked together with The Public Art Fund and Deitch Projects to bring this extraordinary live event to the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum in New York City. Vanessa Beecroft's VB42 Intrepid features 35 Sailors from The Undersea Warfare Community standing in ceremonial formation on the flight deck of the Intrepid in service dress blues. The event will take place in the evening, from 19:30 to 21:00 with New York City's glowing skyline as a dramatic backdrop. The public will be invited onto the Intrepid's famous flight deck to experience Beecroft's live portrait of the US Navy.

Vanessa Beecroft, born in Italy and residing in New York City, has earned an international reputation as one of contemporary art's most innovative young artists. She is known for her stunning live portraits of groups of people. Vanessa Beecroft's VB42 Intrepid is her second project in a series devoted to capturing a portrait of the US Navy. Following her internationally acclaimed US Navy SEALs project presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego in June of 1999, Beecroft is now bringing her work with the military to New York. VB42 Intrepid honors the US Navy's Undersea Warfare Community on the occasion of the submarine's centennial anniversary this year. The Navy has selected 35 of the finest Sailors from The Undersea Warfare Community were selected to be part of Beecroft's event. The live portrait will represent an intersection of military rules and aesthetics with those of the world of art.

An additional element of this project is “a museum within a museum,” a reproduction on-board the Intrepid of the UDT-SEAL Museum located in Fort Pierce, FL. Curated by Vanessa Beecroft and produced by Deitch Projects, this exhibition project will feature film and photographs of objects from the UDT-SEAL Museum collection which will be projected inside a scaled down inflatable reproduction of the UDT-SEAL Museum building. The UDT-SEAL Museum collection includes a Vanessa Beecroft US Navy SEAL project photograph.

### **About Vanessa Beecroft**

Vanessa Beecroft works in the gap between art and life. The work is neither performance nor documentary, but something in between. Her live events are recorded through photography and film, but her conceptual approach is actually closer to painting. Beecroft is making contemporary versions of the complex figurative compositions that have challenged painters from the Renaissance onwards. She sets up a structure for the participants in her live events to create their own composition, presenting themselves according to their own internalized aesthetic system. The Naval personnel position themselves in their traditional geometric formation, wearing uniforms that communicate a precise structure of rank and achievement. The live composition represents an abstract portrait of naval values as well as a literal portrait of the sailors themselves.

The Intrepid project is Vanessa Beecroft's 42<sup>nd</sup> live event. Among the venues where her work has been exhibited are the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, (1999), Spiral Wacoal Art Center, Tokyo (1999), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City (1998), the Moderna Museet, Stockholm (1998), the Venice Biennale (1997), and the Institute of Contemporary Art in London (1997).

### **About U.S. NAVY UNDERSEA WARFARE**

The U.S. Navy provides the Nation with a continuous, flexible and effective instrument of security policy with which to promote stability and project maritime power. The Navy's dominance demands superior warfighting capability on, above and under the sea. The Navy's Undersea Warfare community provides this superiority through the integrated operations of submarines, maritime patrol aircraft and the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System. Modern U.S. nuclear submarines possess the inherent characteristics of stealth, endurance, mobility, firepower and multi-mission flexibility. Maritime patrol aircraft, in conjunction with the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System, continually monitor the world's oceans, making long range detection of submarine and surface ship contacts to provide real-time reporting of surveillance information to theatre commanders.

As the U.S. Navy Submarine Force celebrates 100 years of service to the Nation in the year 2000, the men and women of the Undersea Warfare Community stand poised to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

### **About the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum**

The Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum was chosen as a special location for Vanessa Beecroft's VB42 Intrepid as it is an icon of the Navy in New York City, and recalls New York's long history as a port and Navy town.

Decommissioned in 1974 after 31 years of service to our nation, the 900 foot-long aircraft carrier USS INTREPID is the historic centerpiece of Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum. The museum's permanent collection of ships and aircraft includes the Vietnam-era destroyer EDSON and GROWLER, the only guided submarine in the world which is open to the public.

Over 600,000 visitors annually are exposed to the museum's message of honoring our nation's heroes, inspiring our youth about the price of freedom and educating the public about the role of today's military. The recent recipient of City, State and Federal funding, the Intrepid Museum is in the process of resurfacing her 57 year-old flight deck, developing a state-of-the-art theater experience and constructing a 17,000 square-foot, two-story Visitors Center which will house its admissions area, museum store and restaurant.

### **About Deitch Projects**

Deitch Projects specializes in producing ambitious projects by contemporary artists. The gallery is global in its outlook. Since its opening in January, 1996 with a live event by Vanessa Beecroft, the gallery has presented projects by artists from more than 20 countries.

### **About Public Art Fund**

The Public Art Fund is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations and exhibitions in public spaces. With twenty-five years of experience and an international reputation, the Public Art Fund identifies, coordinates and realizes a diversity of major projects by both established and emerging artists throughout New York City. By bringing artworks outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the Public Art Fund provides a unique platform for an unparalleled public encounter with the art of our time.

The Public Art Fund is a non-profit arts organization supported by generous gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

*Special Thanks to Military Consultant Terence B. Hoey, President, Hoey & Associates*

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