



Hirshhorn Museum Tour: Ai Weiwei's *Trace* Exhibition

Thursday, July 27, 2017

6:30-7:30 PM

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Opening Remarks as prepared for delivery

Welcome to the exhibition, *Ai Weiwei: Trace at Hirshhorn*. Thank you so much to the Hirshhorn Museum and staff for hosting us at this event tonight. I am very grateful to chief curator, Stéphane Aquin, for taking the time to share with us about this powerful exhibit.

On behalf of my Co-Chair, Rep. McGovern, I also want to thank all of you for your work on international human rights, and for your relationship to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. We cannot effectively engage on these complex and often tragic human rights issues around the world without your help. Your compassion and your creative advocacy for those suffering under repression *does* make a difference. If your office is not a member of the Commission, please consider joining us!

I am personally very inspired by the work of the human rights defenders whose portraits we will view today, and by the work of Ai Weiwei himself. I hope you enjoy this evening and find further encouragement for your engagement on human rights issues.

I will hand it over to the chief curator to teach us about what we are going to see.