

## PRESS

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# THE ARMORY SHOW LAUNCHES ARMORY ACCESS: CURATED, A PLATFORM FOR VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY LEADING CURATORS

The first edition, “The Pandemic is a Portal”, opening on April 15, 2021, is curated by Daniel S. Palmer, Curator, Public Art Fund

The Armory Show announces *Armory Access: Curated*, a new digital exhibition series that expands on the fair’s curatorial programming and provides additional support to galleries through a unique, artist-forward online platform. In anticipation of The Armory Show’s next edition at the Javits Center in September, the fair has invited two renowned international curators to develop a digital exhibition around a theme of their choosing. The artworks have been selected by the curators, in accordance with their theme and conceptual framework, from galleries that are participating in the 2021 fair, on view at the Javits Center from September 9-12.

Launching on April 15, 2021, “The Pandemic is a Portal” is the first exhibition in this series, conceived by **Daniel S. Palmer**, Curator, Public Art Fund, New York. Featuring an intimate selection of artworks from around 20 galleries, the presentation’s title and theme are inspired by author Arundhati Roy’s essay published in *The Financial Times* in April 2020. In response to this article, Palmer has created a visual essay of artworks that expands on Roy’s thesis that the Covid-19 pandemic and other traumatic moments provide the opportunity to break with the past, reconcile with current injustices, and imagine the world anew. The exhibition considers the many meanings of a “portal,” both as a threshold for our shifting perceptions of the world and as catalyst for confronting systemic racism, wealth inequality, and the climate crisis to establish a more equitable future.

Curator **Daniel S. Palmer** said: “When The Armory Show came to me with this opportunity, I immediately knew Roy’s article would be the inspiration and framework for my exhibition. In her poignant article, Roy asks, ‘at this critical juncture will we turn our back to yesterday and take the step forward to transition from our current world into the next? What will we leave behind?’ Each artist in this presentation is grappling with these very questions and demonstrates how art continually pushes us to reimagine our existence. I am thrilled to be a part of The Armory Show’s innovative digital initiative, which has allowed me to delve deeply into this theme and expand the issues addressed in Roy’s essay by showcasing these incredible artists and artworks.”

**Nicole Berry**, Executive Director of The Armory Show, added: “We are honored to be working with Daniel for the first iteration of *Armory Access: Curated*, an evolution of our digital program that we introduced last April at the start of the pandemic to support our galleries. The Armory Show has always valued and supported curatorial perspectives, so it made sense to bring a curator’s voice to the program to offer a refreshing and tailored take on the online viewing experience. As we prepare for our physical fair in September, we hope *Armory Access: Curated* will provide a sense of discovery and connection for viewers as they explore Daniel’s timely theme and his thoughtful selection of artworks.”

“The Pandemic is a Portal” convenes artworks across installation, painting, drawing, print, photography, and film, interspersed with commentary from Palmer and quotes from Roy’s essay. Artworks from both past and present lead the viewer through a journey of reconciliation and re-imagination. Many of the artworks convey a cathartic rupture, while others evoke an optimistic metamorphosis or a call to action. Highlights include Ann Veronica Janssens sculptural light work *RR lyrae* from 2014, presented by **Alfonso Artiaco Gallery** (Naples); Hank Willis Thomas’ *History is Past, Past is Present*, 2019 from **Ben Brown Fine Arts** (London); a film by Bruce Conner from **Kohn Gallery** (Los Angeles); and a selection of works from Cyrus Kabiru’s *Macho Nne* series from **SMAC Gallery** (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Stellenbosch). A full list of participating galleries and artists to date is included below.

“The Pandemic is a Portal” will be on view through April 25, 2021. The second *Armory Access: Curated* exhibition will be curated by **César García-Alvarez**, Founder and current Executive & Artistic Director of The Mistake Room in Los Angeles, with the theme and artworks for this exhibition to be announced in the coming weeks.

## Participating galleries and artists for “The Pandemic is a Portal” to date:

- **ACA Galleries** (New York) | artist: Charles White
- **Alfonso Artiaco** (Naples) | artist: Ann Veronica Janssens
- **Ben Brown Fine Arts** (London) | artist: Hank Willis Thomas
- **Galerie Thomas Schulte** (Berlin), **David Zwirner** (Multiple Locations) | artist: Gordon Matta Clark
- **Hales Gallery** (New York) | artist: Chitra Ganesh
- **James Cohan** (New York) | artist: Firelei Báez
- **Jenkins Johnson Gallery** (Brooklyn, San Francisco) | artist: Aïda Muluneh
- **Jhaveri Contemporary** (Mumbai) | artists: Rana Begum and Marina Tabassum
- **Kohn Gallery** (Los Angeles) | artist: Bruce Conner
- **Looock Galerie** (Berlin) | artist: Holly Zausner
- **Ludorff Galerie** (Düsseldorf) | artist: Hermann Hesse
- **Luis De Jesus Los Angeles** (Los Angeles) | artists: Zackary Drucker and Rhys Ernst
- **Michael Rosenfeld Gallery** (New York) | artist: Charmion von Wiegand
- **Perrotin** (New York, Paris, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai) | artist: Emily Mae Smith
- **Peter Blum Gallery** (New York) | artist: Nicholas Galanin
- **SHRINE** (New York) | artist: Hayley Barker
- **SMAC Gallery** (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Stellenbosch) | artist: Cyrus Kabiru
- **Vielmetter Los Angeles** (Los Angeles) | artist: Andrea Bowers

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### The Armory Show

The Armory Show is New York’s art fair and has been an essential part of the city’s cultural landscape since 1994. A dedicated member of the art community, we promote profitable exchange and facilitate meaningful discovery. The Armory Show presents the world’s leading international galleries who showcase an array of modern and contemporary art and artists.

The Armory Show 2021 will launch the fall arts season and bring the international art world to New York for the inaugural edition at its new location at the Javits Center in September. The VIP Preview for the 2021 fair will take place on September 9, before opening to the public from September 10-12.

# THE ARMORY SHOW

SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2021  
JAVITS CENTER

## **Daniel S. Palmer**

Daniel S. Palmer is currently Curator at Public Art Fund, New York, which brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City and beyond. He has organized more than a dozen exhibitions since joining the organization in 2016. Previously, he held the position of the Leon Levy Assistant Curator at the Jewish Museum. Palmer has curated numerous exhibitions independently and has contributed writing to many publications and journals including ARTnews, The New York Times, Mousse, and Kaleidoscope, among others. He holds a M.Phil in Art History from the CUNY Graduate Center and a BA from Rutgers University.

## **Important Information for Media**

### **Fair Dates**

#### **VIP Preview Day (by invitation only)**

Thursday September 9, 2021

### **Public Days**

Friday September 10 – Sunday September 12, 2021

## **Press Contacts**

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