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THE ARMORY SHOW ANNOUNCES FOCUS 2018 THEME, PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND GALLERIES

Curator Gabriel Ritter Brings Together 34 Artists, Whose Work Spans from the 1970s to Present, Around the Theme of the Body Mediated by Technology

The Armory Show today announced the participating artists in the 2018 Focus section, curated by **Gabriel Ritter**, Curator and Head of Contemporary Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia).

Examining the ways in which technology has mediated representation of the physical body and imagined its emancipation in contemporary art, the Focus section brings together 28 galleries presenting 34 artists from 18 countries, whose work spans nearly five decades of artistic practice.

From a variety of intergenerational perspectives, the featured artists broadly question how technology has reimagined the physical body—as avatar, container, prosthesis, shell, surrogate, telepresence, or otherwise—as well its ongoing ramifications for understanding the evolving human condition.

Elaborating on this year’s theme, Ritter stated, “Today we live multiple lives both online and in real life with elastic identities that are seemingly boundless, open to fluid representation and constant reinterpretation via technology. But can the same be said of our physical bodies? Despite technology’s ever-quickenning pace, we remain bound in many ways to our material bodies.”

Presenting a range of works dating from the late 1970s to present, Focus highlights the nuanced relationship between the physical and the digital, exploring contingent themes such as the corporatization of the internet, the limitations of the human body versus the infinite malleability of our digital selves, and technology’s continued influence on various modes of authorship, viewership, and information dissemination.

“Since its establishment in 2010, the Focus section remains one of the most anticipated and celebrated highlights of The Armory Show,” states **Nicole Berry**, Executive Director of The Armory Show. “In 2017 we successfully launched a new direction for Focus, evolving from a geographically-based section towards a thoughtfully curated presentation that reflects the global nature of the art world itself. The curator is now charged with developing an intellectually stimulating theme that, in their view, showcases today’s most relevant and compelling artists. Gabriel Ritter has done just this, while also creating the most geographically diverse edition to date—drawing artists from 18 countries, including the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Iran and South Korea. As The Armory Show looks toward the future, our curated sections remain a pillar of our identity and a continually evolving facet of the fair’s program.”

Highlights include an ambitious presentation of new work by **Takeshi Murata** paired with historical work by **Tishan Hsu**, both of which explore the technological deformation and transformation of the body; a site-specific installation by **Lee Kit** that combines paintings, projections, and readymade objects; a series of user driven artworks created by **Constant Dullaart** from collided dataset images; interactive mediations on hyper-surveillance by **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer**; recent and historical works by **Tony Oursler** that question technology's role in reanimating the past; visceral reminders of the body's fragility by **Hermann Nitsch**; sculptures by **Aleksandra Domanović** and **Oliver Laric** exploring reproducibility in the internet age; works by **Regina José Galindo** that investigate the mechanisms of political, social and economic apparatuses and their effects on the environment; recent paintings by **Kei Imazu** that combine digital effects and traditional oil painting techniques; immersive video installations by **Tabita Rezaire** exploring digital shamanism; and recent and historical bodies work by **Emma Amos** that address racial, geographical, and sexual perspectives.

Participating artists and galleries:

Patty Chang (1972, San Leandro, CA) | **BANK** (Shanghai)
Nicanor Aráoz (1981, Buenos Aires, Argentina), **Amalia Ulman** (1989, Buenos Aires, Argentina) | **Barro** (Buenos Aires)
Woody Vasulka (1937, Brno, Czech Republic) | **Berg Contemporary** (Reykjavik)
José Santos III (1970, Manila, Philippines) | **The Drawing Room** (Makati City)
Tishan Hsu (1951, Boston, MA), **Takeshi Murata** (1974, Chicago, IL) | **Empty Gallery**, (Hong Kong)
Dona Nelson (1947, Grand Island, NE) | **Thomas Erben Gallery** (New York)
Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (1967, Mexico City, Mexico) | **Max Estrella** (Madrid)
Andrew Brischler (1987, Long Island, NY), **Dean Sameshima** (1971, Torrance, CA) | **Gavlak Gallery** (Los Angeles, Palm Beach)
Tabita Rezaire (1989, Paris, France) | **Goodman Gallery** (Johannesburg, Cape Town)
Rashid Rana (1968, Lahore, Pakistan) | **Leila Heller Gallery** (New York)
Park Hyun-ki (1942-2000, Osaka, Japan) | **GALLERY HYUNDAI** (Seoul)
Shahpour Pouyan (1979, Isfahan, Iran) | **Lawrie Shabibi** (Dubai)
Aleksandra Domanović (1981, Novi Sad, SFR Yugoslavia), **Oliver Laric** (1981, Innsbruck, Austria) | **Tanya Leighton** (Berlin)
Karin Schneider (1970, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil) | **Lévy Gorvy** (New York, London, Geneva)
Lee Kit (1978, Hong Kong) | **Jane Lombard Gallery** (New York)
Carter Mull (1977, Atlanta, GA) | **Lundgren Gallery** (Palma)
Fabrice Samyn (1981, Brussels, Belgium) | **Meessen De Clerq** (Brussels)
Anne Libby (1987, Los Angeles, CA), **Claire Tabouret** (1981, Pertuis, France) | **Night Gallery** (Los Angeles)
Gabriele Beveridge (1985, Hong Kong) | **Parisian Laundry** (Montreal)
Regina José Galindo (1974, Guatemala City, Guatemala), **Maria Evélia Marmolejo** (1958, Pradera, Colombia) | **Prometeogallery di Ida Pisani** (Milan)
Tony Oursler (1957, New York, NY) | **Redling Fine Art** (Los Angeles)
Emma Amos (1938, Atlanta, GA) | **RYAN LEE** (New York)
J. PARK (1966, Daegu, South Korea) | **Shin Gallery** (New York)
Bruce Nauman (1941, Fort Wayne, IN) | **Sims Reed Gallery** (London)
Hermann Nitsch (1938, Vienna, Austria) | **Marc Straus** (New York)
Morehshin Allahyari (1985, Tehran, Iran) | **Upfor Gallery** (Portland)
Constant Dullaart (1979, Leiderdorp, Netherlands) | **Upstream Gallery** (Amsterdam)
Kei Imazu (1980, Yamaguchi, Japan) | **Yamamoto Gendai** (Tokyo)

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Armory Show

The Armory Show is New York City's premier art fair and a leading cultural destination for discovering and collecting the world's most important 20th- and 21st-century art. Staged on Manhattan's Piers 92 & 94, The Armory Show features presentations by leading international galleries, innovative artist commissions and dynamic public programs. Since its founding in 1994, The Armory Show has served as a nexus for the international art world, inspiring dialogue, discovery and patronage in the visual arts.

Gabriel Ritter

Gabriel Ritter is the Curator and Head of Contemporary Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia). Recent projects at Mia include a three-month long residency and solo exhibition, *A Place We Share*, with New York-based artist Aliza Nisenbaum; the world premiere of artist Anne Collier's *Women with Cameras (Self Portrait)*; and the current presentation *Kenneth Tam: Cold Open*. Upcoming projects include the first large-scale U.S. museum survey of acclaimed Japanese artist Shinro Ohtake. Ritter holds a Ph.D. in art history from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he also earned his M.A. in art history.

Important Information for Media

Fair Dates

VIP Preview Day (Invitation-only)
Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Public Days

Thursday, March 8 – Sunday, March 11, 2018

Press Images

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Press Contacts

Audrey Rose Smith, The Armory Show

+1 646 616 7433

a.smith@thearmoryshow.com

North America

Gina Nanni, Company Agenda

+1 212 358 9516

armory@companyagenda.com

Europe

Anna Rosa Thomae, A R T Communication + Brand Consultancy

+49 (0) 30 5565 4935

art@annarosathomae.com