

PRESS

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THE ARMORY SHOW, ARTSY, AND JEFFREY DEITCH TO PRESENT A NEW PUBLIC WORK BY FRENCH ARTIST JR



On the exterior of Pier 94, the artist and 2018 Academy Award nominee, **JR**, will debut a monumental work, transforming archival Ellis Island photographs into a large-scale installation.

Presented in partnership with Artsy and Jeffrey Deitch, *SO CLOSE* (2018) is the marquee feature of the fair's Platform section, curated by Jen Mergel, who has selected fifteen site-responsive works sited around Pier 92 & 94 under the theme, *The Contingent*.

SO CLOSE is a continuation of Artsy's six-year relationship with the fair and extends Artsy's tradition of presenting site-specific artist projects at The Armory Show.

Upon entry to the fair, visitors will be faced with the super-sized tableau of a line of immigrants, waiting. The faces in the archival image from Ellis Island are updated with Syrians' portraits JR took at the Zaatari refugee camp in 2017. Like his recent image of the smiling toddler *Kikito* strategically installed on scaffolding in Tecate, peering over U.S.-Mexican border wall from the California side, the supersized silhouettes

of *SO CLOSE* are sited at a symbolic point of entry – to the city, to the country, and to the art world.

The new installation expands on JR's provocative and often politically-charged public interventions that paste large-scale black-and-white photographs of individuals across cities' architecture, re-weaving a human presence into the urban fabric. Building upon his *UNFRAMED* series of borrowed photographs, *SO CLOSE* collapses history and geography, responding directly to the global immigration crises. *SO CLOSE* will be the first work seen by visitors as part of *The Contingent*, which responds to the unfolding zeitgeist that Mergel defines as the "rise of collective action in the face of a prevalence of uncertainty."

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.

JR

JR (1983, Paris, France) exhibits freely in the streets of the world, catching the attention of people who are not typical museum visitors. In 2006, he created Portrait of a Generation, portraits of suburban "thugs" that he posted, in huge formats, in the bourgeois districts of Paris. In 2007, in collaboration with Marco, he made Face 2 Face, posting huge portraits of Israelis and Palestinians face to face in eight Palestinian and Israeli cities. His recent projects include a collaboration with New York City Ballet, an Academy Award nominated feature documentary co-directed with French New Wave legend Agnès Varda; a huge installation on the Pantheon in Paris, the pasting of a container ship; the pyramid of the Louvre; a monumental mural in the suburbs of Paris; scaffolding installations at the 2016 Rio Olympics; an exhibition on the abandoned hospital of Ellis Island; and an installation at the US-Mexico border fence.

Artsy

Artsy is the global platform for discovering and collecting art. Artsy partners with leading museums, international galleries, auction houses, and art fairs to create the world's largest marketplace for art. Artsy's technology enables the growth of the entire art market by effectively connecting supply and demand at a global scale. With 2,000+ partners across 90+ countries and the most-read art publication online, Artsy empowers a global audience to learn about, discover, and collect art. Launched in 2012, Artsy is headquartered in New York City with offices in London and Berlin.

Jeffrey Deitch

Jeffrey Deitch is a gallerist and curator who presented the celebrated Florine Stettheimer Collapsed Time Salon at The Armory Show last year.

Important Information for Media

Fair Dates

VIP Preview Day (By invitation only)

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Public Days

Thursday, March 8 – Sunday, March 11, 2018

Press Images

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