



En FOCUS

In a world where over 250 art fairs take place annually, New York City's premier contemporary and modern presentation, The Armory Show, raises the intellectual bar with Focus.

BY ALLISON BERG

For the 2018 Armory Show's Focus section, Gabriel Ritter, curator and head of contemporary art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, explores how technology mediates the representation of the physical body. "Technology, on the one hand, can be celebratory, liberating and empowering. On the other, it can be alienating and oppressive," says Ritter. He notes that much of who we are is defined and dictated by our bodies and examines the ramifications in current culture through a fruitful presentation of 34 artists from 18 countries with work spanning almost 50 years.

Deceased Korean video art pioneer Park Hyon-ki's work is alongside young French-born Guyanese/Danish Tabita Rezaire's new media art. Similarly, Vienna Actionist artist Hermann Nitsche's large, red, visceral paintings are juxtaposed with younger artists' disembodied, sterile pieces. "It is a reminder that behind technology, we are sacks of water, flesh and blood," explains Ritter. Other curveballs include Claire Tabouret's new paintings where futurism and remembrance commingle and Anne Libby's found-form designs that pose questions about cognitive labor and its implications for our bodies. "Focus is a great opportunity to see contemporary work in a more historic context," says Ritter. "It gets people thinking and opens them to new artists, practices and places." *March 8-11, 711 12th Ave., thearmoryshow.com*



Clockwise from top: Installation view of "Deep Down Tidal," 2017, by Tabita Rezaire; installation view of "Schuttbild" by Hermann Nitsch at Marc Straus Gallery, fall 2015; "Resident Bilbao Effect," 2017, by Anne Libby; "Circle Dance (orange sun)," 2017, by Claire Tabouret.

