

## The Armory Show, Artsy, and Jeffrey Deitch to present a new public work by French artist JR



*New York, February 9, 2018* — On the exterior of Pier 94, the internationally renowned artist and Academy Award nominee, **JR**, will debut a monumental new 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 supersized 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.”

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### ABOUT ARTSY

Artsy is the leading destination for exploring and collecting art from the world's top galleries, museums, art fairs, and auction houses. Artsy partners directly with the most influential players in the art world, providing collectors and enthusiasts a central resource to learn about and purchase artwork from anywhere in the world. Powered by The Art Genome Project, a personalization system that maps the connections between artists and artworks, visitors to Artsy can browse art from the [world's leading museums](#), [collect artworks](#) from thousands of top [galleries](#), explore international [art fairs](#) before they open to the public, bid in auctions from leading [auction houses](#), and read about the art world in the world's most-read [art publication](#). Our mission is to make all the world's art accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

### ABOUT 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.

### ABOUT 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, with Marco, he made Face 2 Face, the biggest illegal exhibition ever. JR posted 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 Nouvelle Vague 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 "à la Diego Rivera" in the suburbs of Paris, giant scaffolding installations at the 2016 Rio Olympics, an exhibition on the abandoned hospital of Ellis Island or a gigantic installation at the US-Mexico border fence.

### ABOUT JEFFREY DEITCH

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

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**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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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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