

KUNSTHALLE MÜNCHEN

Press Release

JR: CHRONICLES 26 August 2022 to 15 January 2023

With *JR: Chronicles*, the Kunsthalle München presents the largest retrospective dedicated to French artist JR (*1983) in Germany to date. His exhibition spaces are really the streets of this world where he also attracts the attention of those who otherwise do not visit museums. JR became famous with his photographs of regular people, which he pastes on house fronts, trains, container ships or border walls in at times monumental formats. The focus often rests on people whose dignity and rights are commonly ignored. With his art, JR lends them visibility in a manner that is as perceptive as it is empathetic. He deliberately keeps his true identity concealed, using only his initials and always wearing sunglasses and a hat. The focus is not on his person, but on his works; he leaves their interpretation to those portrayed and to passers-by. With his work, JR does not want to provide answers, but raise questions and encourage people to engage in dialog. By means of selected photographs, videos, models, and large-scale pastings, the multimedia exhibition, organized by the Brooklyn Museum, makes it possible to experience JR's projects, which are conceived to last for a limited period of time only. For the Kunsthalle München, JR will also create a *trompe-l'œil* that seems to break through the museum walls, opening the view to his actual field of activity: the urban space.

“I own the largest gallery of the world – the walls of the city”

At the age of 18, JR began photographing the activities of graffiti artist friends and young people and exhibiting them in public spaces: For *Expo 2 Rue* (2001–04), he pasted paper copies of his images at various locations in and around Paris, lending his community visibility in the city. In *Portrait of a Generation* (2004–06), he and his friend, filmmaker Ladj Ly, focused on young people from the social housing projects of the Paris suburbs. In their portraits, they contort their faces into whimsical grimaces to draw attention to the clichéd and prejudiced portrayals of young people from deprived areas in the media.

Starting in the mid-2000s, JR expanded his scope with projects around the world. His first trip took him to Israel and Palestine in 2005. There, he photographed people sharing the same profession. *Face 2 Face* featured their portraits in pairs, one person from Palestine and one from Israel, side by side on equal terms in both countries. With posters on the border wall and in Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem, among other places, it was the largest illegal photo exhibition to date. For the *Women are Heroes* project (2008–14), JR subsequently went to Brazil, Libya, Sierra Leone, Kenya, India, and Cambodia, where his pastings honored the role of women as pillars of society. In several cities, including Shanghai, Havana, and Berlin, JR devoted *The Wrinkles of the City* (2008–15) to the older generation, whose life lines—as well as the facades of the houses on which he pasted their portraits—bear witness to lived history.

Time and again, JR is furthermore concerned with overcoming physical boundaries. Be it in 2017 with *Giants, Kikito*, in which an oversized photograph of a Mexican toddler curiously peers over the border fence toward the U.S., or in one of his most recent ventures, *Tehachapi* (2019–20), for which he collaborated with inmates of a California maximum-security prison on a project.

The exhibition's central gallery is taken up by JR's *Chronicles*: expansive photo collages composed of hundreds of portraits that attempt to suggest the multifaceted nature of the people who, in all their diversity, make up the complex collective of a community or a city.

Inside Out

The exhibition's last room presents *Inside Out*, one of the world's largest participatory art projects. Since its launch in 2011, more than 400,000 people in almost 140 countries have participated. The project supports initiatives by private individuals and institutions to lend their concerns visibility and public attention. In September 2022 one of JR's *Inside Out* trucks, converted into a mobile photo studio, will stop at various locations in Munich as part of the exhibition. All Munich residents are invited to join us for the project *Kunst & Kultur für alle* (*Art & Culture for Everyone*). Their portraits will be taken in the truck, then printed, and directly pasted on site. Further information on the project and particular locations will be available shortly at www.kunsthalle-muc.de.

JR: Chronicles is organized by the Brooklyn Museum. It is curated by Sharon Matt Atkins, Deputy Director for Art, Brooklyn Museum, and Drew Sawyer, Philip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator, Photography, Brooklyn Museum.

With some 350,000 visitors annually, the **Kunsthalle München** is one of Germany's most prestigious exhibition venues. Located at the heart of Munich, the Kunsthalle stages three large exhibitions a year on a variety of themes. Equipped with state-of-the-art museum technology, the approximately 1,200 m² exhibition space is a renowned platform for artworks ranging from painting, sculpture, graphic art and photography, through to design and fashion. The Kunsthalle München's diverse programme alternates monographic exhibitions with thematic projects.

Media contact

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As of: 13 June 2022

SELECTION OF PRESS IMAGES

More images and download: www.kunsthalle-muc.de/en/press_area/jr



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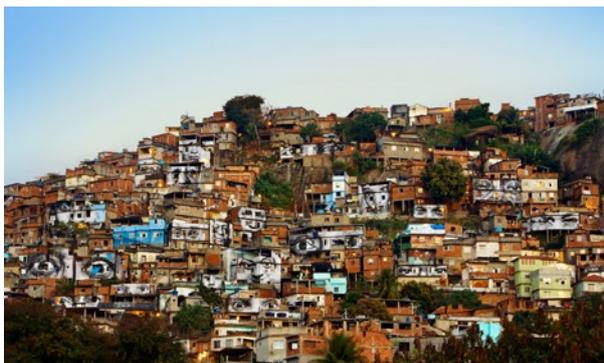
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- 1 JR, *28 Millimeters, Portrait of a Generation, Hold-up, Ladj Ly by JR, Les Bosquets, Montfermeil, 2004*, installation image. Black-and-white photograph, © JR-ART.NET
- 2 JR, *Giants, Kikito and the Border Patrol, Tecate, Mexico-U.S.A., 2017*, installation image, wheat-pasted poster, © JR-ART.NET
- 3 JR, *The Chronicles of New York City, 2018-19* (detail), © JR-ART.NET
- 4 JR, *Giants, Brandenburg Gate, September 27th 2018, 01:14 p.m.*, © Iris Hesse, Ullstein Bild, Roger-Viollet, Berlin, Germany, 2018
- 5 JR, *28 Millimeters, Women Are Heroes, Action in Favela Morro da Providencia, Favela by day, Rio de Janeiro, 2008*, Installation image. Wheat-pasted posters on buildings, © JR-ART.NET
- 6 JR, *Inside Out, Times Square, New York City, 2013*, installation image, wheat-pasted posters on buildings, © JR-ART.NET

KUNSTHALLE MÜNCHEN

OPENING HOURS

daily 10am–8pm | **21.9., 19.10., 16.11.2022:** 10am–10pm | **24.12.:** closed | **31.12.:** 10am–5pm

Special opening hours for school groups:

each wednesday 9am–10am, by appointment only: kontakt@kunsthalle-muc.de

DIRECTOR

Roger Diederer

EXHIBITION CURATORS

Touring exhibition: Sharon Matt Atkins, Deputy Director for Art and Drew Sawyer, Philip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator, Photography (Brooklyn Museum)

Kunsthalle München: Roger Diederer and Anja Huber (Kunsthalle München)

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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PRESS IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD

www.kunsthalle-muc.de/en/press_area/jr

ADMISSION FEE

Standard: € 15 | **Reduced fees:** Senior citizens (60+): € 13 | Students (< 30 years) and unemployed: € 7 | Young people (6–18 years): € 2 | Children under 6: free of charge | school classes: € 2 per pupil (pre-booked) | Family pass for 2 adults and their (grand-)children (< 18 years): € 28 | On tuesdays 50% discount on all admission fees (except 1.11.).

AUDIO TOUR

A **free audio tour** for the exhibition is available and can be accessed from home and in the exhibition with your own mobile device (www.kunsthalle-muc.de/jr-audio).

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours for groups: guided tours in languages other than German: Mon, Wed–Fr: 10am–8pm, Sat: 10am–1pm by appointment only: kontakt@kunsthalle-muc.de

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME (SUMMARY)

Afterwork^{KH} evenings and **lectures**, **curator's tours**, **public tours** and **guided tours** for children and **Street Art tours** through Munich. Cooperation with MUCA: Upon presentation of an exhibition ticket for *JR: Chronicles*, visitors will receive a discount on the MUCA ticket.

Updated information: www.kunsthalle-muc.de

CATALOGUE

Accompanying the exhibition Hirmer Verlag publishes an extensive catalogue with ca. 220 colour illustrations. Edited by Kunsthalle München. With contributions by S. Matt Atkins, D. Sawyer und JR.

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tiktok.com/@kunsthalle-muc, the official expo hashtag: **#JRmuc #KunsthalleMuc**

www.kunsthalle-muc.de

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