



20 Artists to Watch at The Armory Show

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As The Armory Show opens its 23rd edition, 210 galleries from 30 countries across the globe have converged on Manhattan’s west side. The fair’s 2017 installment boasts not only roomier aisles and bigger booths, but an increase to the number of galleries in the Presents section, which offers solo or duo artist presentations by young dealers, and a revitalized Focus section, bringing in new or rarely seen work curated by Jarrett Gregory.

With these changes come an abundance of artists on the rise. These range from young German photographer and Andreas Gursky protégé Louisa Clement, to first-time Venice Biennale participants Fiete Stolte, a conceptual artist based in Berlin, and Achraf Touloub, a multimedia artist from Morocco—to name just a few. Here, in no particular order, we highlight 20 of the fair’s most promising newcomers.

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Stolte is off to a promising start in 2017. Just months before his work heads to the Venice Biennale, where it's been tapped for Macel's "Viva Arte Vida" exhibition, the German conceptual artist opened a solo at albertz benda's project space, his first in the United States. Coinciding with that exhibition, the gallery is presenting a number of Stolte's works at The Armory Show. This includes an interactive photo booth from which fairgoers can take away passport-sized portraits for \$100 apiece.

The installation, *Eye* (2014–2017), is part of curator Eric Shiner's Platform section, for which large-scale projects and installations have been dotted across the fair. No ordinary photo booth, Stolte's machine is equipped with a carefully arranged camera and mirror that allow viewers to capture their own silhouettes as reflected onto their pupils. "The project stages the eye as a mirror to the world," says Stolte from his studio in Berlin. As the artist affectionately recalls, the project was inspired some three years ago while looking into the eyes of his wife.

At the gallery's booth, Stolte will also show two pieces from a series called "Smoke (after Still Life with Candle)." In them, the artist creates sinuous neon wall works that are modeled after smoke rising from blown-out candles, which he captured in an earlier series of polaroids. It's a meditation on time, like much of the artist's work, which subverts, manipulates, and transforms how humans conceive of and organize their world.

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