

galeria

nara roesler

são paulo  
rio de janeiro  
new york  
www.nararoesler.art  
info@nararoesler.art

I AM  
AN  
ARTIST!

I DON'T  
EXPRESS  
NEGATIVITY OR  
AGGRESSION  
IN INDIRECT  
AND PASSIVE  
WAYS

SHE'D

NHAGEN

I AM A  
LITTLE BOY  
WITH A  
FLYING CAR

T WILL GO

art basel

june 14 - 18, 2018

unlimited sector | booth U69

cover image: Alternative Facts, installation and performance, 2017 -- New Museum, New York



*Alternative Facts*, installation and performance, 2017 -- New Museum, New York

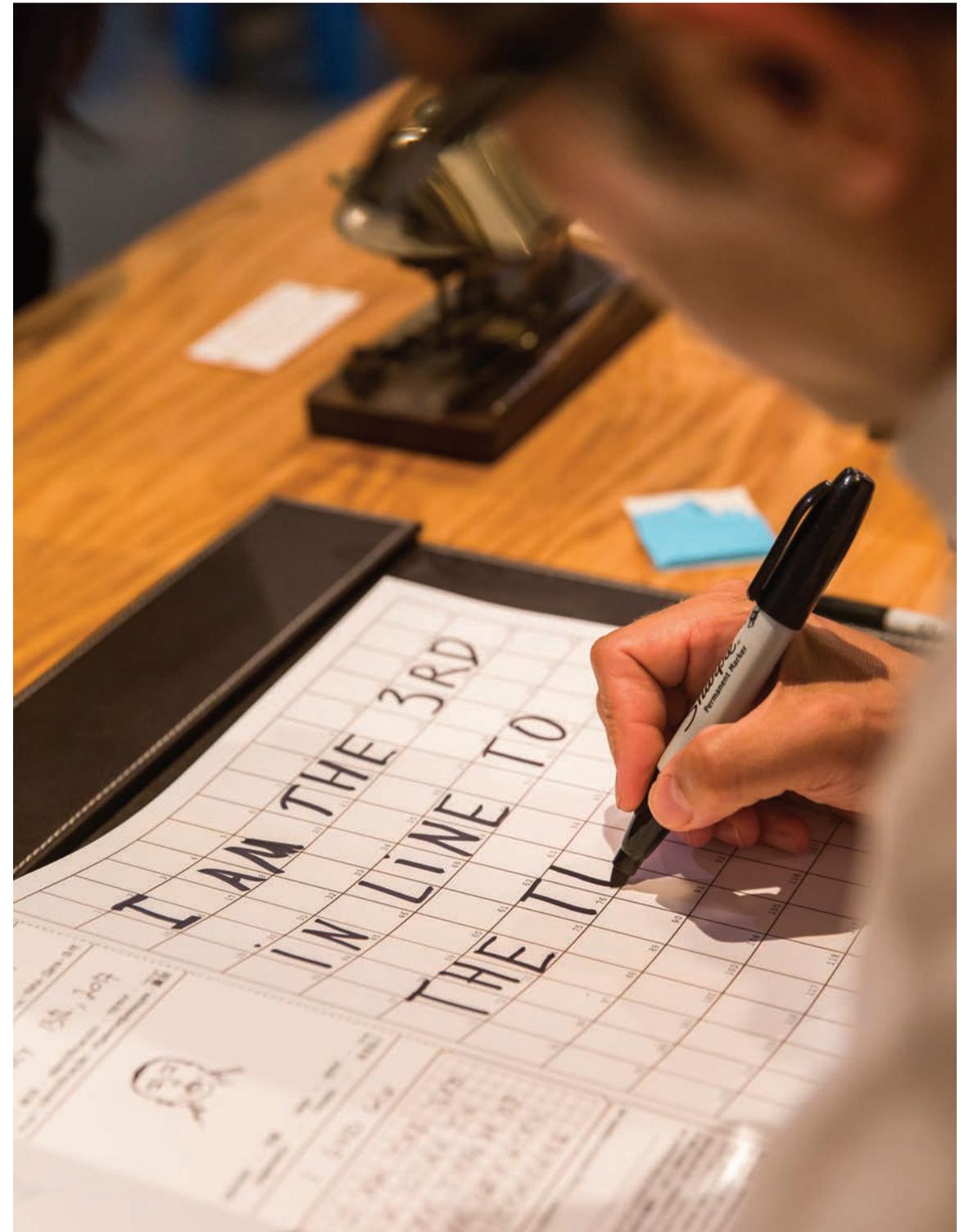
### alternative facts

For Unlimited at Art Basel 2018, **Galeria Nara Roesler** is proud to present *Alternative Facts* (2017), a participatory performance and installation by Paul Ramirez Jonas that investigates truth as a social contract.

In the activation of this socially engaged piece, Paul Ramirez Jonas acts as a notary public and certifies private lies in public documents. Sitting behind a table where special tools are organized, the performer invites participants to sit on a bench opposite to him and provide an untruthful statement, which he notarizes as means to attest to its truthfulness. The notary process requires payment in gold; therefore the artist offers to transform the customer's pocket change into gold.

The work proposes not only a legal, but also a chemical process of transformation. The exchange results in two drawings, one for the viewer to take and one to be hung on a freestanding setup near the table.

Exchange and participation are two guidelines at the core of *Alternative Facts*. The participant must give to receive. The performer invites the participant to sit at his table, requests payment and notarizes the participant's lie as a truth. Since payment must be in gold, the performer turns the viewer's coin into gold; de-facto an electroplating process.



*Alternative Facts*, installation and performance, 2017 -- New Museum, New York



*Alternative Facts*, installation and performance, 2017 -- New Museum, New York



Transformation is also a guideline. In addition to the coin's chemical change, the notary process, a process familiar to the public, is also transformed, inviting the public to imagine the mutability of structures that constrain and shape them. Imagination precedes action, a prerequisite for social change.

For Ramirez Jonas, social justice is a cooperative project that requires polyphony of voices. The piece is particularly topical in a context where politicians question the reliability of the media and excuse inaccurate statements as "alternative facts."



The exchange rate shown is an indicative rate and should be used as a guide only.

*Alternative Facts*, installation and performance, 2017 -- New Museum, New York



*Alternative Facts*, installation and performance, 2017 -- New Museum, New York

## Paul Ramirez Jonas

b. 1965 California, United States. Lives and works in lives and works in New York.

Ramirez Jonas' practice hinges on the interaction between artist and audience. By inviting the viewer to participate in his works, the artist fosters the creation of a social contract between artwork and public. Redefining the parameters of the contract underlying the public exhibition is at the core of the Ramirez Jonas's body of work, which includes participatory performances, large-scale public installations, monumental sculptures, videos, and drawings. His works seek to communicate collective ideals rather than the artist's individual expression. For that reason, the artist operates within a set of guidelines, rather than by projecting what he would like to say.

Paul Ramírez Jonas was born in 1965 in California. A citizen of Honduras and the USA he lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. In 2017, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX, presented the artist's 25 year- survey. Other selected solo exhibitions presented by The New Museum, New York, NY; Now and There, Boston, MA; The Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA; Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo, Brazil; the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; a survey at Ikon Gallery and Cornerhouse, UK. His work has been in group exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum, New York; P.S.1, New York;The Whitechapel, UK; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Ireland; and Kunsthau Zurich, Switzerland. He has participated in the Johannesburg Biennale; the Seoul Biennial, the Shanghai Biennial; the 28th São Paulo Biennial; the 53rd Venice Biennial and the 7th Mercosul Biennial. In 2010 his Key to the City project was presented by Creative Time in cooperation with the City of New York. Works are included in collections such as: the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; Bronx Museum, New York; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, New York; Malmö Konstmuseum, Sweden; and Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil. He is currently an Associate Professor at Hunter College, City University of New York.

## ongoing exhibitions:

Fundacion Jumex Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, Mexico

*The Crystal Palace*

March 3 - September 2, 2018

## recent exhibitions:

Fundacion Jumex Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, Mexico - activation

*Fe Publica*

March 3 - 18, 2018

New Museum, New York, USA - solo show

*Half-Truths* curated by Johanna Burton

July 5 - September 17, 2017

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, USA - survey

*Atlas, Plural, Monumental* curated Dean Daderko

April 29 - August 6, 2017

Boston Art Commission, Boston, USA - solo comission

*Public Trust*

Dudley square, August 27 - September 3, 2016

Kendall square, September 3 - September 9, 2016

Copley square, September 10 - September 17, 2016

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum - group show

*Under the same sun: Art from Latin America Today*

curated by Pablo Leon de la Barra

June 13 - October 1, 2014

**Galeria Nara Roesler** is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, focused on Brazilian and international artists. The gallery seeks to foster a dialogue between its represented artists, among whom are seminal figures who emerged in the 1950s, as well as preeminent mid-career and emerging artists. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery aims to foment curatorial practice and uphold the highest quality in artistic production. The gallery's aims are carried out through: a rigorous exhibitions program created in collaboration with its artists; the Roesler Hotel program, a platform for curatorial projects; and partnerships with institutions and curators, who enable the gallery to support its artists beyond the gallery's spaces. In 2012, the gallery doubled its exhibition space in São Paulo, in 2014 it opened a second outpost in Rio, and in 2015 it established a space in New York City, as a means to continue its mission to provide the best platform for its artists to promote their work.



## **art basel**

june 14 - 18, 2018

unlimited sector | booth U69

## **private view**

june 12 - 13, 2018 | 11am - 8pm

## **vernissage**

june 13, 2018 | 4pm - 8pm

## **public view**

thursday to friday

june 14 - 17, 2018 | 11am - 7pm

## **location**

Messe Basel

Messeplatz 10

4005 Basel

Switzerland