



## paul ramírez jonas: give and take

### galeria nara roesler | new york

#### opening

september 12, 2018  
6pm-8pm

#### exhibition

september 13 - october 20, 2018  
tue-sat: 10am - 6pm

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22 east 69th street 3r  
new york ny 10021 usa  
t 1 (212) 794 5038

Galeria Nara Roesler | New York is pleased to present *Paul Ramírez Jonas: Give and Take*, the artist's third solo exhibition with the Gallery and first at its New York location. For the past five years Ramírez Jonas has exclusively focused on new public participatory projects. This return to the exhibition format will feature intimate and subjective drawings and small objects that have been made concurrently with the artist's public projects.

Over the last twenty-five years Ramírez Jonas has created works that range from large-scale public installations and monumental sculptures to intimate drawings, performances and videos. Through his practice he seeks to challenge the definitions of art and the public and to engineer active audience participation and exchange in a variety of public spaces. His 2010 Creative Time project, *Key to the City*, for example, involved 20,000 participants and centered around a key as a vehicle for exploring social contracts pertaining to trust, access, and belonging. Meanwhile his presentation of "Alternative Facts" at Art

Basel 2018, focused on co-creating 500 drawings based on individual lies told by the public and transformed into truths by the artist. Multiples based on everyday objects such as coins and keys or the public's own words, also are a reoccurring motif allowing the artist to question notions of value, circulation and societal rituals or behaviors.

Ramírez Jonas' latest series of drawings take the form of ledgers, charting abstract systems of equivalences and exchange rates. The artist links various elements in these diagrams; from pennies to buttons, his own finger prints, and the words "give" and "take" to complete coin-shaped idioms. In addition to their accounting of transactions, the works also address the passage of time, as currency waxes and wanes in lunar-like cycles. These drawings share a formal language with Ramírez Jonas' public projects. They focus on the small gestures, marks and objects that we use for exchange; and the forms we use to determine value, to keep records and keep both material and immaterial accounts.

### About Paul Ramírez Jonas

Born in California (1965) and raised in Honduras, **Paul Ramírez Jonas** currently lives, works, and teaches in New York. In 2017 the artist was the subject of *Half Truths* at the New Museum, New York, and *Atlas, Plural, Monumental*, a career survey exhibition at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. He has had solo exhibitions at institutions including Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo, Brazil (2011); the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2008); the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, (2007–8); and Ikon Gallery Birmingham, UK and Cornerhouse, Manchester, UK (2004). In 2010, his project *Key to the City* was presented by Creative Time in cooperation with the City of New York. In 2016, his project *Public Trust* was presented by Now and There in Boston. He participated in the first Johannesburg Biennale (1995); the first Seoul Biennial (2000); the sixth Shanghai Biennial (2006); the twenty-eighth São Paulo Biennial (2008); the fifty-third Venice Biennial (2009); and the seventh Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brazil (2015). His work is represented in permanent collections worldwide, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Blanton Museum, Austin; Bronx Museum, New York; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Itaú Cultural, São Paulo; Malmö Konstmuseum, Malmö; New Museum, New York; and the Pérez Art Museum, Miami.

### Image

Paul Ramírez Jonas  
***Give and Take***, 2018  
paper and mixed media  
9 x 12 in

### press inquiries

galeria nara roesler | new york  
t 1 (212) 794 5038  
paul richert-garcia  
[paul@nararoesler.art](mailto:paul@nararoesler.art)

galeria nara roesler | são paulo  
t 55 (11) 2039 5465  
paula plee  
[paula.plee@nararoesler.art](mailto:paula.plee@nararoesler.art)