

## JR: Chronicles Workshop Research Pack

### *The Chronicles of Clichy-Montfermeil (2017)*



The Chronicles of Clichy-Montfermeil, Mural detail, at Montfermeil, France, 2017

*'This fresco forms an image of Clichy-Montfermeil made up of portraits of different generations who have seen the utopia of this neighbourhood fall apart...It is a portrait of those who strive to put poetry back into cement' - JR (2017)*

This mural explores the social unrest that occurred after the death of two young people, Zyed and Bouda, within this Parisian suburb in 2005. The buildup of poverty and social tension resulted in the biggest riots in French history. This piece involved photographs of more than 750 people made up of portraits of firefighters, police officers, parents, and students, as well as the mayors of Clichy and Montfermeil. The mural first showed in the *Palais de Tokyo* in Paris, and is now permanently installed at the *Cite des Bosquets*, the housing complex in Montfermeil.

For more information, images & videos on *The Chronicles of Clichy-Montfermeil* project:

<https://www.jr-art.net/projects/clichy-montfermeil-chronicles>

*The Gun Chronicles: A Story of America (2018)*



*'Art is not supposed to change the world, but to change perceptions. Art can change the way we see the world' - JR (2018)*

Guns Chronicles: a story of America, TIME Magazine's cover, USA, 2018

Following the *Clichy-Montfermeil* mural *Time* magazine commissioned JR to create a cover for its 2018 November issue. The photomontage was to depict the differing views on gun control in America through photographing individuals from all sides of the debate. This involved 245 people including police, gun collectors, shooting victims, A&E hospital staff, and lobbyists for the gun industry. In conjunction with the cover, JR and *Time* created 'Guns in America', a video mural and interactive project website, which portrays the participants' stories through moving portraits and recorded audio.

*Guns in America* interactive website features participants' audio stories and behind the scenes of the project: <https://time.com/guns-in-america/>



## *The Chronicles of San Francisco (2018)*



The Chronicles of San Francisco, Mural detail, San Francisco, USA, 2018

*'I hope that in one hundred years people will discover this mural and look at every detail on every person and be like, "Oh my God. What was this weird dance this guy was doing, and what was this swoosh brand that they all have on their t-shirt".' - JR (2018)*

JR chose to depict the city of San Francisco with its long mural history going back to the work of Diego Rivera in the early 1930s. As a city of contrast with immense wealth as well as having one of the highest levels of homelessness in America, JR and his team set out with a photography studio within a trailer truck to twenty-four locations across the city. They documented over a thousand individuals throughout the community, who choose how they wanted to be represented and shared their story. These images formed a digital collaged mural exhibited on an LED wall at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

For further information, images and videos on *The Chronicles of San Francisco* project:

<https://www.jr-art.net/projects/the-chronicles-of-san-francisco>

## *The Chronicles of New York City (2019)*



The Chronicles of New York City, Mural, USA, 2019

*'In the street, my work reaches people who may not go to museums.'* - JR (2019)

Moving on to New York City, JR and his team worked across all five boroughs to document over a thousand New Yorkers, parking their trailer truck studio in numerous locations to capture willing participants. Individuals ranged from construction workers to monks, train conductors to musicians. Each were documented against a green screen so their image could be transported into a new New York City setting, featuring architectural landmarks. The work was premiered at the Brooklyn Museum in 2019.

For further information, images and videos of *The Chronicles of New York City* project:

<https://www.jr-art.net/projects/the-chronicles-of-new-york-city>