

JR:Chronicles Offsite Project Brief

In kind support from Art Explora



Still from 'The Gun Chronicles', 2018

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

STARTING POINT:

Over the past two decades JR has emerged as one of our most powerful storytellers and connectors of diverse worlds and communities. Working at the intersections of photography, social engagement and street art, he creates site-specific public interventions that bring together varied groups of individuals to counter representations in the media and engage with critical social issues around the globe.

In 2017, JR started a series of epic participatory murals, inspired by the work of the Mexican muralist *Diego Rivera*. Each work entailed photographing and filming hundreds of people, alone, or in groups, and then collaging their portraits together to create a narrative and highly realistic composition that dealt with a place or social issue.

The series includes *The Chronicles of Clichy-Montfermeil* (2017), *The Gun Chronicles* (2018), *The Chronicles of San Francisco* (2018), and *The Chronicles of New York City* (2019).

THE BRIEF:

Research

Research into the work of JR and his Chronicles series, whether that be through visiting the exhibition or viewing the virtual tour, alongside reading the accompanying research pack and related website suggestions. You could also look into the work of *Diego Rivera* and *Mexican Muralism* to explore the use of social narrative, a key influence on JR's work. It may also be useful to research into *Activist art* or *Protest art*, and the technique of photomontage.

Theme:

Choose a topical theme that you would like to discuss in your work, whether that be something of your choosing or one of the suggested themes below:

- Covid & lockdown
- The environment & protest
- Black Lives Matter
- Consumerism & sustainability
- Future living

Experiment:

Explore the idea of art activism by interpreting your chosen theme using a variety of printed or found images to create a photomontage. Remind yourself how JR layers images of people and place to construct a story about that community and/or social issue. Consider your selected images and how the composition will portray a particular meaning for your chosen topic.

Task order:

1. Visit the exhibition (in-person or virtually) and spend some time viewing the Chronicles series in preparation for your research ('The Gun Chronicles' video is in Gallery 5 and the Chronicles collaged murals are in Gallery 8).
2. Complete research on JR and his work, in particular the Chronicles series. You may also want to research *Diego Rivera*, *Activist art* or *Protest art*, and the technique of photomontage.
3. Choose a topical theme to interpret.
4. Find/print off images for your chosen theme and experiment using photomontage techniques; considering the images, composition, and what meaning this will portray.
5. Present your final artwork to your group; discussing the theme, narrative, and choice of images and composition.
6. You can digitalise (scan or photograph) your artworks and submit them to the Saatchi Learning Instagram and Online Learning Gallery (see the Saatchi Learning webpage for details).

MATERIALS/RESOURCES:

- Printed images and/or magazines, newspapers
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Black paper (as background)
- Examples of JR's work (for inspiration)

