

JR “Inside Out Project” In Tunisia

Published March 18, 2011



Inside Out Project by JR has started in Tunisia, A couple new pasters appeared in the capital Tunis. Photos of Ben Ali were replaced by Tunisian Portraits, the portraits also appeared in the police station of La Goulette which was burned during the revolution. Pics By JR.

JR's "Inside Out" Project in Tunisia

By Adrian Brinkley, Published March 20, 2011



Making good on his TED Conference wish, French street artist JR is using his craft to make a difference in the world with his "Inside Out" project. Encouraging people from around the globe to send in photos of themselves, JR has printed these photos and is now pasting them in various locations. JR's first destination was Tunisia where he has covered a wall with photos of the people in the very same spot where a portrait of Ben Ali was kept. The symbolic gesture serves as a testament to the power of art, giving some hope for the future to the people of Tunisia.

JR's InsideOut Project in Tunisia

By Stephanie, Published March 25, 2011



Here are some pictures sent to us by JR for his latest project in Tunisia. In his true fashion, the photographer/street artist took pictures of residents around the country. Calling the project "Artocracy," the outdoor works consist of one of the first organized street art exhibits in an Arab country. Posting the works in symbolic areas correlated with the revolution, JR received a lot of backlash from people in the area, but has managed to capture some beautiful portraits with six Tunisian photographers- Sophia Barakat, Rania Dourai, Wissal Dargueche, Aziz Tnani, Hichem Driss and Hela Ammar.

Street Artist JR and the Inside Out Project's latest exploits in Tunisia – Street Art – Warholian

Published April 18, 2011



The Inside Out Project by street artist and self-proclaimed “photographeur” JR seems to be gaining momentum after winning the \$100,000 TED prize. Recently they wrote us here at Warholian sharing their latest exploits in Tunisia... enjoy!

“Six Tunisian photographers travelled the country to take pictures of 100 everyday tunisians representing the Tunisian diversity: men and women, young and old, from North, South East and West, rich or poor, civil servants, business people, workers, farmers, unemployed, and much more... For a country which has only exposed in the streets the portraits of the ruler, this makes quite a difference.

For the first large street exhibition in a nascent Arab democracy, the posting promised to be surprising and the confrontation with art not always simple. Our first two days were quite hot (insulted in La Goulette the first day, posters taken down in Tunis the second day). So we decided to go to Sidi Bouzid (where it all started), an isolated region, to work with those who did the revolution before coming back to the popular districts of the capital.

There is nothing better to understand the weight of traditions and the willingness to change than to post big portraits in the symbolic places of the popular districts and try to explain the concept to people nearby...

And then, we received a warm welcome in Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Le Kram where men and women (OK, mostly men) have asked questions, challenged the project, raised objections, posted with us, explained the project to their neighbors...

We come back with hope that Tunisia will become a country open to art as Spain after Franco or Berlin after the wall was taken down.” – Inside Out Project

Artocracy in Tunisia, an project initiated by Slim Zeghal and Marco Berrebi and created with the group of Tunisia photographers including Sophia Baraket, Rania Dourai, Wissal Dargueche, Aziz Tnani, Hichem Driss and H la Ammar.

For more on JR’s Inside Out Project visit: <http://insideoutproject.net>

The New York Times

Eyes on, and of, a South Bronx Community

By James Estrin, Published June 28, 2011



Majora Carter stood outside the recently closed Bridges Juvenile Center in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx on Sunday. For Ms. Carter, the detention center is close to home. She grew up around the corner from the building, where her father worked as a janitor.

“It was an awful place,” said Ms. Carter, 44. “He hated it, because it made kids worse than when they went in.”

When Ms. Carter revisited the building — known locally as the Spofford Juvenile Center, its former name — over the weekend, though, she saw it with different eyes. She couldn’t help it. The walls were covered with colossal photographs of local residents,

in black and white. In each portrait, the subject was shielding his or her own eyes with a masklike photo showing the eyes of a local mother or grandmother.

The images are part of a project devised by Hunts Point community organizations with the assistance of the 28-year-old French street artist known only as JR.

JR, who is renowned for his enormous photographic installation projects in downtrodden locales — among them Kenya, Cambodia and Brazil — recently won a \$100,000 prize from the TED conference for his Inside Out project. Now, he’s helping others with their own supersized photography endeavors.

The idea is simple. “Upload a portrait. Receive a poster. Paste it for the world to see.”

Hunts Point, known for its poverty, drug problems and substandard housing, is also home to a collection of vibrant community organizations. Among them is the Point, which has programs for youths in the arts, community involvement and academics. In partnership with the International Center of Photography, it also has a longstanding photography program.

Danny Peralta, director of arts and education at the Point, studied photography at the International Center of Photography and knew JR’s work. Mr. Peralta and others at the center had been trying to come up with an idea for a large installation project. When Ms. Carter met JR at a TED conference, she invited him to visit Hunts Point.

“We had just been talking about JR and all of a sudden it was like he just dropped from the sky,” Mr. Peralta said.

About a month ago, JR met with leaders of several community organizations at the Point. Maryann Hedaa of the Hunts Point Alliance for Children suggested the focus on mothers and grandmothers. Paul Ramirez — whose company, Mainland Media, is committed to promoting a positive image of the Bronx — thought up the masks.

“They started to brainstorm and I just became a witness to the event,” he said. “I’m really just the printer.”

The group gathered mothers to pose for local photographers and students from the photography center, and cajoled people from the neighborhood to be photographed holding the eyes over their own. Mr. Ramirez, 30, and his brother and business partner, Anthony Ramirez II, 32, organized crews of volunteers. And since Saturday, they have been pasting posters on buildings throughout Hunts Point, with JR on hand to offer technical advice on challenges like building scaffolding atop a 135th Street roof next to the Bruckner Expressway.

To get onto the roof, Anthony Ramirez, 32, scaled

a wall with his hands and feet and climbed a series of rickety ladders, pausing only to recall his fear of heights. But he was determined.

“I feel an incredible energy,” Mr. Ramirez said. “There are great things going on in this community.”

Ms. Carter, who joined the rooftop gathering near its completion, said the project was trying to counteract the one-dimensional view of the South Bronx.

Earlier on Sunday, when a group of neighborhood girls walked by and asked her about the posters, her answer came easily.

“We want you to see things the way the women who are pillars of our community do, and imagine what that would be like,” she said. “It means that we can see ourselves, and be seen by others, differently.”



French Street Artist JR Plasters Bronx With Community Art

By Christopher Robbins, Published June 26, 2011



Photo by Tim Schreier

French graffiti artist JR and the Bronx's Hunts Point Alliance for Children have teamed up to present "Through A Mother's Eyes," a community art project that involves members of the neighborhood, through images taken by and of Hunts Point residents themselves. With the areas physical structures being plastered with the people who live amongst them, the focus of the project is "community art" in its truest sense.

JR, this year's TED prize winner, also recently replaced Kenny Scharf's mural on Houston, wheatpasted stoops across Park Slope, and his Lakota project can be seen all over Soho as part of Inside Out, a massive participatory art project that "transforms messages of personal identity into pieces of artistic work."



JR Turns The Bronx “Inside Out,” Sees Hunts Point Through A Mother’s Eyes

By GlobalGrind Staff, Published June 27, 2011



International French artist and TED Winner JR kicked off his quest to turn the world inside out in The Bronx, NY last Friday, erecting several murals in the Hunts Point section of the wily borough.

PHOTOS: JR Wants To Turn The World Inside Out

The installation took place on Saturday, Sunday and today with the completed the portraits filling the skyline and being visible from the Bruckner Expressway as well as throughout the Hunts Point neighborhoods.

JR’s “INSIDE OUT Project” is a large-scale participatory art project that transforms messages of personal identity into pieces of artistic work. Everyone is challenged to use black and white photographic portraits to discover, reveal and share their untold stories.

The Bronx project focuses on the women of the Hunts Point community and uses photographs to tell the story of The Bronx through a mother’s eyes.

After the break, more images from the project.

Read more: <http://globalgrind.com/hip-hop-culture/jr-bronx-photos#ixzz1RWW6GIZt>

JR Mural Replaces Kenny Scharf's Smileys on Houston Street

By Benjamin Sutton, Published June 24, 2011



Photo courtesy of amolho4/Flickr

After bringing his Inside Out project to Park Slope last month, French street art star and TED Prize-winner JR has moved it into the city and taken over the Tony Goldman mural space at Houston and Bowery from Kenny Scharf with his massive photo portrait “Lakota, Dakota Nation.” But Scharf had one last celebrity visitor before his cartoon-faced crowd disappeared...

Compulsive camouflageist Liu Bolin flew from China—and was actually allowed to leave, unlike some of that country’s artists—and arrived in New York on Tuesday to be painted into Scharf’s mural. See the whole process below, at the end of which, with some assistance from Scharf himself, Bolin blends right into the bright, multi-toned composition.

Meanwhile, the JR mural officially made its debut yesterday. A press release for the project explains:

The Inside Out Group Action: “Lakota, North Dakota” will highlight the Standing Rock and Pineridge Native Reservations — some of the most important Native American reservations whose impoverished and forgotten communities have suffered unspeakable hardships. The Lakota, Dakota Nation group action is to show that the people in this community are still struggling to hold onto their native way of life.

How long will it take for New York’s native tribes to make their contributions to the new mural?

The Day I New Faces, New Places

By Chelsea Rose Marcus, Published June 24, 2011



Photo courtesy of Michael Natale

Good morning, East Village.

Another major overhaul took place Thursday at the corner of Bowery and East Houston. A new face, pictured above, has replaced the colorful ghouls painted by artist Kenny Scharf on the Tony Goldman graffiti wall; EV Grieve says it's called, "Lakota, North Dakota." Community contributor Tim Schreier shared photos of the work in progress at right.

Local theatergoers will have their last chance to visit Performance Space 122 this Saturday before the venue on the corner of First Avenue and Ninth Street temporarily closes for renovations. Theater Mania reports that the organization — named for the old Public School 122 building it has inhabited since 1979 — will relocate until construction is complete.

Counter will also soon be gone. The vegetarian bar and bistro on First Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets told Gothamist that its closing is imminent, although owner Deborah Gavito has yet to give an exact date.

