

“There’s a powerful resonance about simply having the poetry of these large faces floating by on what looks almost like a 19th-century raft in a completely unexpected location.” – Sopan Deb, *The New York Times*



Shimon Attie, *Night Watch (Norris with Liberty)*, 2018. Originally produced by Moreart.org in New York City.

Documentation of *Night Watch* 2018: <https://cclarkgallery.com/exhibitions/boxblur-attie-night-watch-2018#slide1>

“We contain the other, hopelessly and forever.” – James Baldwin

San Francisco Bay, CA: BOXBLUR and Immersive Arts Alliance are pleased to announce the co-production of Shimon Attie’s *Night Watch*, a floating media installation that will travel the San Francisco Bay from September 16-22, 2021.

Night Watch features video portraits on a 20ft-wide hi-resolution LED-screen which will travel along the Bay aboard a large, slow-moving barge to allow for on-shore public viewing. Displayed on the screen are silent, close-up video portraits of twelve refugees who were granted political asylum in the United States.

The floating installation combines contemporary LED-technology with an anachronistic mode of transport – a barge – to create a complex and layered artistic and sculptural tableau. *Night Watch* will activate and animate the San Francisco Bay as both a literal and metaphoric site and landscape for escape, rescue, safe-passage, and the offering of safe-harbor for those most vulnerable. The artwork engages one of the most urgent issues of our time – that of welcoming or closing our doors to asylum seekers.

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The presentation of *Night Watch* in New York City during UN General Assembly Week (2018) received major press coverage, including features in *The New York Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *artnet News*, and *The Art Newspaper*, as well as television coverage by BRIC TV, German State Television ZDF, and NY1.

During its run in the San Francisco Bay, the barge hosting *Night Watch* will travel slowly, hugging the city's shorelines and allowing for intimate and sustained "I-thou" encounters with people on land at pre-publicized locations. Live, onshore performances by artists, some of whom are also immigrants to the United States, will further engage visitors at each viewing site. BOXBLUR and Immersive Arts Alliance are partnering with other cultural organizations in San Francisco, including the San Francisco Art Institute, to present additional onshore screenings of the video portraits. Partnerships with non-profit organizations representing the needs of refugees are also being developed in an effort to provide educational materials and resources to the public.

The individuals displayed on the screen are from five continents, and are largely members of international LGBTQI communities, as well as unaccompanied minors, who fled tremendous violence and discrimination in their homelands. The individuals displayed in the work arrived from Nigeria, Honduras, Colombia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, and Peru.

Night Watch is co-produced by BOXBLUR and Immersive Arts Alliance with support from BD+20, Classical Revolution, Large Screen Video, Maybach Family Vineyards, and Norris Communications. Partners include Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, California College of the Arts, Cal Sailing Club, Catharine Clark Gallery, Catholic Charities, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Congregation Emanu-El, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Dance Film SF, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, Gray Area Foundation for the Arts, International Rescue Committee, The Institute of Contemporary Art San José, Minnesota Street Project, Mullowney Printing, Museum of the African Diaspora, Oakland's Jack London Square, Oasis Legal Services, Partnerships for Trauma Recovery, PhotoAlliance, Roots Community Health Center, San Francisco Art Dealers Association, San Francisco Art Institute, San José Museum of Art, UC Berkeley Arts + Design, University of San Francisco, and Value Culture.

BOXBLUR is a fiscally sponsored initiative of Dance Film SF. BOXBLUR commissions and presents collaborative projects created in response or in partnership with visual artist's works. BOXBLUR aims to bring visual and performing art by diverse artists into conversation, within the gallery space and at offsite locations. <https://cclarkgallery.com/exhibitions/boxblur-attie-night-watch-2021>

Immersive Arts Alliance was founded to encourage, develop, and to present large-scale, multidisciplinary exhibits and performances in the Bay Area and beyond. With a deep commitment to diversity and to social justice, Immersive Arts Alliance engages the public in vital discussions about innovation, creativity, and culture at large. <https://www.immersiveartsalliance.org/artists>

Shimon Attie is a multimedia artist, whose work comprises photographs, video and multi-media installations, new media and works on paper. Concerned with questions and themes surrounding memory, place, and identity, Attie's early work reanimates the lost history of public spaces through site-specific projects, while his recent work continues to investigate the past alongside the important socio-political issues of our time. <http://shimonattie.net/>

“For the millions who have been forced to flee their homelands to escape violence and discrimination. For the fortunate few who have been granted political asylum in the United States.” – Shimon Attie

Dates: Thursday, Sept. 17: Fort Mason, Aquatic Park, Rincon Park (San Francisco); **Saturday, Sept 18:** Fort Mason, Aquatic Park, Warm Water Cove (San Francisco); **Sunday, Sept. 19:** Jack London Square, Berkeley Marina (Oakland and Berkeley)

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