

August 25th, 2020



NARS 2020 Season III Residency Exhibition

To Assemble

With works by
**Amir Hariri, Joseph Wilcox & Matthew
Cronin**

September 4 – 23, 2020
NARS Foundation, Main Gallery

Curated by Elisa Gutierrez Eriksen

NARS Foundation is excited to present *To Assemble*, an exhibition featuring the works of our Season III, 2020 Artists in Residence, Amir Hariri, Joseph Wilcox and Matthew Cronin.

This will be the first exhibition installed and presented at NARS' Main Gallery since we paused activities last March.

This Residency Season has been one in which we are relearning how to be with each other in the same space, in part due to a global pandemic that to this day is still a threat, and in part from the political and social panorama that has taken many people to the street to demand the end of systemic racism, police brutality and overexertion of power.

Inside and outside, we're re-thinking the ways in which we can reconfigure structures that have been in place for too long, and to learn new ways to share, take, and make space to assemble.

Wilcox, Hariri and Cronin have backgrounds in strict disciplines -photography, engineering/ architecture- yet they have stepped away from them and adopted a more disruptive/alternative approach in their work.

Through the recollection of images and materials -from catalogs, construction sites, internet or real life events like protests- they have brought to the gallery a vision of a world that is constantly being dematerialized, and have each pieced it together with particular approaches.

Each work threads a series of unseen structures arising from ideas related to the ways in which images are created, distributed and presented; the ways in which we experience space; and the ways to reconfigure and reveal the layers of an industrial apparatus that remains unknown.

They converge from very different directions, all containing the tensions of erasure, destruction and transformation, to reveal what's been concealed and then piece things together.

By looking at structures they recollect information and ideas that take shape and reflect on the current events, and more importantly, the ways in which we take in data, and the way it transforms us.

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*Even though there won't be an Opening event, we invite you to make an appointment (email: info@narsfoundation.org or call:7187682765) to visit the exhibition from **Tuesday - Friday between 12 and 5 pm.**

Amir Hariri was born in Tehran, Iran, and immigrated to the United States to attend college in the early 1990s. After earning a Masters' degree in engineering from Cornell University, he spent over a decade working on design projects from concert halls and museums to glass designs for Apple. Amir also spent 5 years studying painting and printmaking at the Art Students League, during which time he served as a teaching assistant and as a member of the board. His artwork incorporates his professional background in design and engineering, as well as studies in anatomy. Amir has exhibited nationally and internationally, with pieces included in public and private collections in the United States, Italy, Spain, Hong Kong, and Japan.

By adopting the roles of image gatherer, entrepreneur, documentarian, object-maker, and organizer, **Joseph Wilcox** explores how institutional control, political systems, and social power structures undermine individual autonomy. He was the co-founder of LDOC, a free yearlong arts publication distributed on the Red Line train in Chicago; an artist-in-residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, HATCH Projects at the Chicago Artists Coalition, and LATITUDE Chicago; and the first place winner of The Bloom Award by Warsteiner. Solo and two-person exhibitions include Good Children Gallery (New Orleans, LA), Chicago Artists Coalition (Chicago, IL), and The Rangefinder Gallery (Chicago, IL). He received his MFA from Lesley University College of Art and Design and his BFA from Kendall College of Art and Design. He lives and works in Brooklyn.

Matthew Cronin lives and works in New York. He holds an MFA in Studio Art from University of Texas at Austin as well as a BFA in Photography from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Cronin's process makes use of preexisting photographs which he reimagines through montage and multiple exposure. His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States and Canada including the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; The Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, Tucson; and Back Gallery Project, Vancouver.

Image: Amir Hariri, *Colony Collapse Aperture*, 2020

Accessibility: Nars Foundation is only wheelchair accessible via prior arrangement - please contact programs@narsfoundation.org to arrange this. Free tap water available. There is no nearby accessible public transport. On street parking is available. Please consider coming to this event scent free. For further questions regarding accessibility, please contact NARS directly at programs@narsfoundation.org.

The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. NARS provides an array of creative support services and professional development opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists through short-term integrated residency programs, affordable long-term studio spaces, progressive exhibition programs, and engaging public programs. These services operate in conjunction with our education and community outreach initiatives. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.

For further information, please contact us at www.narsfoundation.org / info@narsfoundation.org / 718-768-2765.



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