

Press Release

Hauser & Wirth Menorca

Mark Bradford's art education residency with students of Escola d'Art de Menorca launches the artist's year-long collaboration with non-profit PILAglobal



On 19 July, Mark Bradford's exhibition 'Masses and Movements' inaugurates Hauser & Wirth Menorca with an integrated Education Lab developed during a month-long residency the artist and his team conducted on-site at the art centre. Created in collaboration with students from Escola d'Art de Menorca, the Education Lab features a visual intervention created in response to the current global refugee crisis and a space for public programming throughout the run of the exhibition. The Lab also launches a new collaboration between Bradford and PILAglobal, a non-profit that offers innovative education to families impacted by displacement and poverty worldwide.

For two weeks, students from Escola d'Art have worked alongside Mark Bradford and his team at the art centre on Isla del Rey (Illa del Rei) to paint maps of the world, chisel the surface of the walls, and outline paths of immigration with red paint. The resulting installation explores concepts of personal and political identity, centring on marginalized stories and themes developed in Bradford's most recent body of work in 'Masses and Movements'. The project further highlights these themes through stacks of posters featuring advertisements for low interest home loans, foreclosure abeyance services, or cash for homes, that the artist collected around Los Angeles, superimposed over images of deserts, oceans, border walls, and coastlines. Visitors are invited to take the posters in homage to the poster stacks of the late Cuban-born American artist Félix Gonzalez-Torres who died in 1996 from AIDS-related causes. An adjacent space is dedicated to public engagement activities that will run during the course of the exhibition.

Mark Bradford says: 'The level of creativity and commitment from these students and my team, Marcos Lopez, España Martinez, and Lola Mercadal, has been truly remarkable. The project is a response to the global refugee crisis and our work together has been a meeting of minds across continents.'

Manuela Wirth, President, Hauser & Wirth says: 'This collaboration between students from Escola d'Art de Menorca, Mark Bradford and his team is a beacon for the opening of Hauser & Wirth Menorca. We

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are proud that the Education Lab highlights the work of PILAglobal whose global projects provide an essential life-line for displaced families.'

This art education residency marks the beginning of Bradford's year-long collaboration with PILAglobal. The non-profit was founded on the belief that all children, regardless of economic or geographic considerations, are entitled to an education that sparks curiosity, creativity and critical thinking. PILAglobal offers innovative education to children who live in refugee camps, migrant shelters or in abject poverty through the creation of 'Nests', or early learning spaces. Supported by local asylum seekers, international volunteers, and local teachers, each 'Nest' inspires children to explore, negotiate, collaborate and cultivate their passions. For children without access to education, these experiences create a refuge that restores human dignity and nurtures healthy development. Current live projects by PILAglobal are supporting displaced families in Tijuana, Mexico; Lesbos and Samos, Greece; and Mumosho, Eastern DR Congo.

Alise Shafer Ivey, Executive Director of PILAglobal says: 'Every child deserves the right to not only an education, but a beautiful space that inspires curiosity and wonder. The support provided through this commitment from Mark Bradford will enable us to create new Nests, and train local educators. Each day we see the positive impact that unlocking a safe space for creative education has on families, providing them with vital respite in otherwise incredibly harsh conditions.'

Notes to Editors

About Mark Bradford

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Mark Bradford (b. 1961) is best known for his large-scale paintings that explore the socio-political potential of abstraction through a rigorous approach to painting. Bradford's ongoing practice examines political and environmental conditions that continue to disproportionately affect the most marginalised populations. Characterized by its layered formal, material, and conceptual complexity, Bradford's work explores social and political structures that objectify marginalized communities and the bodies of vulnerable populations. Just as essential to Bradford's work is a social engagement practice through which he reframes objectifying societal structures by bringing contemporary art and ideas into communities with limited access to museums and cultural institutions.

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Bradford has been widely exhibited internationally and is the recipient of numerous awards including the U.S. Department of State's Medal of Arts in 2014, his appointment as a National Academician in 2013, and a MacArthur Fellowship Award in 2009. In 2017, Bradford represented the US at the 57th Venice Biennale with 'Tomorrow Is Another Day.' Public commissions of his work include 'Pickett's Charge,' a monumental, site-specific installation for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, and 'We The People,' a site-specific work for the new US Embassy in London that comprises 32 panels featuring select text from the United States Constitution.

About PILAglobal

PILAglobal provides innovative education for children and families affected by displacement and poverty worldwide. Working with local and international volunteers, PILAglobal creates early childhood learning spaces, called 'Nests', where young children engage in the important work of childhood: learning, playing, and creating.

With locations in Athens and Lesvos, Greece; the Democratic Republic of Congo; and on the U.S-Mexico border in Tijuana, each Nest inspires children to explore, negotiate, collaborate, and cultivate their passions. For children without access to education, these experiences create a refuge that restores human dignity and nurtures healthy development.

For more information see:

<https://www.pilaglobal.org/>

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