The French artist JR has been working tirelessly for more than a decade, pasting black and white images in cities around the world. His practice originated in 2001 on the streets of Paris when he began to paste photographs in suburban train stations of Parisian taggers' nocturnal activities. JR quickly discovered that unlike highly codified graffiti, photography speaks to everyone. It was with this realization that his practice expanded into a global campaign of what the artist calls actions. Through the use of portraiture, video, and oral histories JR has created a global initiative to recognize those who live in the margins of society, individuals who are rarely given a chance to speak for themselves, and communities that are most often portrayed through the dehumanizing filter of mass media. The resulting portraits and documentation empower the subjects through recognition and global dissemination.

This is JR's first solo museum exhibition in the United States, designed to articulate the breadth and ambition of his practice through a number of ongoing bodies of work. Over a decade of his practice is on view, spanning early interventions on the streets of Paris to the global Inside Out Project, which is a result of his winning the Ted Prize in 2011. Work from the series Portrait of a Generation, Face 2 Face, Women are Heroes and Wrinkles of the City is also on view. Each project reveals a unique approach to address individuals and the issues their communities face. JR is clear in pointing out that he does not pretend to do the work of an NGO or relief organization. He is simply an artist who applies artistic strategies to address real world problems.