

ALFREDO JAAR

Alfredo Jaar

*THE END*³

29 July - 14 October, 2023

Opening reception: Sat. 29 July, 2023 16:00 - 18:00

Artist, architect, and filmmaker, Alfredo Jaar (b. 1956, Santiago, Chile) develops an interdisciplinary practice that expresses cultural and political crisis in the austerity of a minimalist vocabulary. His consistent, dedicated research on social injustice seeks to dismantle information forged by biased media sources, and sheds light on the margins of reality through humanitarian insight. Coinciding with Jaar's solo exhibition at Hiroshima MOCA as a laureate of the 11th Hiroshima Prize—as well as a retrospective at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago, Chile—this exhibition premieres Jaar's new sculpture and an installation created in collaboration with his long-time friend, photographer Daido Moriyama.

The exhibition, titled *The End*³, unfolds in three chapters, where each portrays the end of a potential apocalypse: be it that of humanity, of photography, or of the World as we know it.

Silent Flash (2023) consists of a 3-meter long horizontal strip of translucent photo-stills fixed over a metallic light box, which comments on the modern political history of the city of Hiroshima. It displays a sequence of aerial views of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, the only remaining building near the epicenter of the atomic bombing. Jaar was permitted for the first time to photograph the architecture from atop, looking down from the “eye” of the atomic bomb—creating a subtle nod to the pervasive use of the zenith “overhead” perspective. A drone flying above the World Heritage Site moves vertically to the ground, steadily lowering its position as it captures every detail of the scenery approaching the dome of the building—until the image brutally shifts into a white frame.

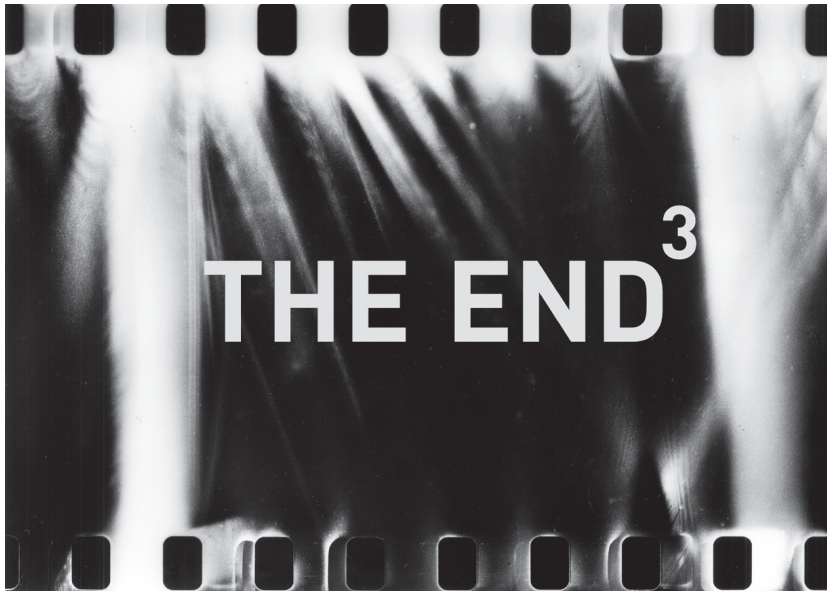
The exhibition continues with an installation created in collaboration with an artist Daido Moriyama: a photographic dark room in the gallery space, applying a red-tinted illumination. The selected images on display are sourced from Moriyama's seminal monograph, *Bye Bye Photography* (1972), which features his “rough, blurry, out of focus” photographs of Tokyo's urban life, anticipating the foreclosure of his photographic practice and the medium itself. Exhibited in the same room is Jaar's sculpture from 1988, a suspended red light bulb created on the day he purchased his first digital camera. This readymade piece was titled *Bye Bye Photography* (1988) in homage to Moriyama. Red ambient light intensifies around the light bulb, underlining the condition once necessary for the chemical processes of analog photography. Revisiting the early works of the two artists and their self-reflective critique of photography as a medium, this new installation provokes a steep contrast to the current climate of the oversaturation of digital images in the age of Social Media and AI generators.

The final chapter of the exhibition features a new sculptural artwork titled *The End of the World* (2023). In it, the artist criticizes the current economic policies over the “critical raw materials” that are required for a transition to newer sustainable goals, pointing at how the depleting resources continue to trigger and fuel political crises. The artist presents the minimalist materiality of ten minerals—including Copper, Lithium, and Rare Earths—in stacks, layered to form a 4-cm cube that sits on a pedestal. The audience is asked to rethink their positionality and to ponder on the current situation of the biosphere. This linear, almost essential form of the minerals procures a metanarrative about how these materials have come to the end of their productive life in the industrial cycle by becoming an artwork.

The three parts behind this thought-provoking exhibition draw from the forecasting of the physical destruction of the world due to the extractivist plundering of the earth that has been detailed by the Anthropocene. While Jaar's passionate and profound poetics announce a dystopian future through his characteristic displacement of the excessive proliferations of images, his reassurance in the power of art to inspire and mobilize provides a thrust towards the fostering of new possibilities, beyond the limitations of representation through imagery.

[Press Images]

(Credit)
Cover + Upper left: Photo by Daido Moriyama
Right below: Portrait of Alfredo Jaar



Alfredo Jaar

(Born in 1956, Santiago, Chile. / Lives and works in New York)

Alfredo Jaar is an artist, architect, and filmmaker who lives and works in New York. His work has been shown extensively around the world. He has participated in the Venezia Biennale (1986, 2007, 2009, 2013), São Paulo Biennale (1987, 1989, 2010, 2021) as well as Documenta in Kassel (1987, 2002).

Also, his retrospective exhibitions were held in 2012 at three museums across the city of Berlin, followed by the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Finland in 2014. His recent major solo exhibitions include: "One Million German Passport" (Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, 2023), The Hasselblad Foundation international Award in Photography Exhibition "Whisper and Cries" (The Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2021), "The Structure of Images" (Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 2021).

Also, the 11th Hiroshima Art Prize Award Ceremony and Commemorative Exhibition will be held at Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art from 22 July and his solo exhibition will be held at Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago in this September.

He became a Guggenheim Fellow in 1985 and he was awarded the National Prize for Plastic Arts from his native Chile in 2013, the 11th Hiroshima Art Prize in 2018 and The Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography in 2020. His work has been acquired by prestigious museums worldwide, such as MoMA (New York), TATE (London), Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), LACMA (Los Angeles), M+ (Hong Kong) and so on.

[Artist News]

The 11th Hiroshima Art Prize exhibition will be held at Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art.

[Outline]

The 11th Hiroshima Art Prize

[Title] Alfredo Jaar

[Date] Sat. 22 July - Sun. 15 October, 2023

[Venue] Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art

[Official web site] https://www.hiroshima-moca.jp/exhibition/alfredo_jaar

Urgent Talk 045: Alfredo Jaar

Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness

Date: Tue. 25 July, 2023 18:30 ~ 20:00 (Doors open: 18:00)

Venue: Auditorium, MAM (Mori Art Museum)

50 (booking required, first-come basis)

※ Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available

Appearing: Alfredo Jaar (Artist)

Discussant: Mami Kataoka (Director, Mori Art Museum)

Organizer: Mori Art Museum

Cooperation: Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, KENJI TAKI GALLERY,

SCAI THE BATHHOUSE

Official web site: <https://www.mori.art.museum/en/>

[Outline]

[Artist] Alfredo Jaar

[Title] *THE END*³

[Date] Sat. 29 July - Sat. 14 October, 2023

12 : 00 - 18 : 00

Closed on Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. and National Holidays

※ Summer holidays: 10 - 20 August, 2023

[Venue] SCAI PIRAMIDE

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