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## NEÏL BELOUFA HUMANITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14 – November 10, 2024



Neil Beloufa, imagery generated from *Humanities*, 2024.

*Opening Reception: Saturday, September 14, 2024, 4pm – 7pm*

*(the gallery will be open 12pm – 7pm)*

*Artist Talk: 4pm*

### **About the exhibition**

Neil Beloufa is an artist whose polymorphous practice spans film, sculpture, installations, as well as social and collective experiments. In a constant flirtation with failure, his work insistently interrogates the art field-its institutions and formats, its capacities and limitations-while also now exploring the digital world and the novel forms of community that coalesce there. For this exhibition, Beloufa considers the power of individual storytelling in building large-scale propaganda through *Growth* (2024) a newly commissioned installation. While riffing on the gamification of society and the trend of immersive art experiences, *Growth* is an interactive multimedia system that guides each visitor through the process of becoming the center of their own success story, creating a company, a cult, or a political party and thus highlighting the incongruous likeness between those. The new commission is presented in conjunction with Beloufa's existing piece *Global Agreement* (2018) which examines modern warfare discourse through the vantage point of its direct personnel since Beloufa conducted lengthy interviews with soldiers stationed around the world, extracting from their testimonies a characterization of war that resists accounts from Hollywood or the army itself. The two pieces merge in a dialogue (or cacophony) which uncannily reflects our current moment's tension between extreme individualism and global discord.

Curated by Myriam Ben Salah.

*Humanities is presented in conjunction with a related project at Kunsthalle Basel in Switzerland, October 4, 2024-January 19, 2025.*

*Additional support for Neil Beloufa's exhibition provided by France Chicago Center at the University of Chicago and Villa Albertine Chicago.*

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#### **About the Artist**

Neil Beloufa (b. 1985, Paris, France) studied at École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and at École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris; California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, USA; Cooper Union, New York; and Le Fresnoy National Contemporary Arts Studio, Tourcoing, France. He has exhibited in numerous solo exhibitions worldwide, including at Secession, Vienna; Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Milan; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Pejman Foundation, Tehran; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin; and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. He participated in the Venice Biennale in 2013 and 2019, the Shanghai Biennale and Taipei Biennale in 2014, and the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art in 2013. His work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; François Pinault Collection; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, among others. He lives and works in Paris.

#### **Events**

##### **Opening Reception**

Sat, Sep 14, 4-7pm

##### **Exhibition Walk-through**

Led by Myriam Ben Salah

Tue, Sep 24, 6 PM

##### **Discussion**

Neil Beloufa, Patrick Jagoda, and Gary Kafer

Wed, Oct 16, 1PM

Zoom

For this online program, two scholars from the University of Chicago offer their reflections on Neil Beloufa's interactive exhibition at the Ren before joining the artist in conversation. Patrick Jagoda is a specialist in media theory and game studies in the Department of English, whose research has explored network aesthetics and the rise of gamification in American culture, among other subjects. Gary Kafer, from the Department of Cinema and Media Studies, examines the politics of twenty-first century digital culture, with a focus on surveillance systems and how data-based processes reproduce existing power relations.

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