

galerie frank elbaz.

Ari Marcopoulos

Into the Now

September 5 - October 10, 2020

Opening on Saturday, September 5, 2020



Ari Marcopoulos, *Brown Bag*, 2020

Into the Now is a body of work that was put together during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The center piece of the exhibition is a digitized 7'21' Super-8 film titled *Brown Bag*.

The title refers to a brown paper bag filled with exposed Super-8 film cassettes that I found in my studio unpacking some long-forgotten boxes.

I sent the film out to be developed and digitized. When the material returned it turned out to be mostly skate footage from the mid-90's in New York. The film had sat in that bag almost 25 years, a true time capsule. I sat down with the footage and edited this film.

Also in the show are a series of 14 vintage prints taken in New York in the 80's and early 90's, these include images of Spike Lee on the set of *Do the Right Thing*, and Public Enemy lead man Chuck D in the recording studio.

The most recent work is a recto/verso edition covering the past year, including the doctor who administered my Covid-19 test, my sons and stepdaughter, several up and coming hip hop artists and others.

I have been thinking a lot about living in America during a global pandemic that has simultaneously exposed failure of the health system as well as exposing the blatant racism and white supremacist brutality the US suffers from. These are questions I have long grappled with as an "outsider". As an artist I often found myself spending time listening and talking to important Black artists, musicians and leaders over the decades.

I think back from when I was a young child and remembered the day Martin Luther King was murdered, the day I saw Tommie Smith and John Carlos bow their heads and raise their black-gloved fists. I was 11 then, now I am 63 and I wonder when will this violence end?

— Ari Marcopoulos