



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION
by Jon Henry



March 18, 2019, 2019, NEW YORK, NY—14x48 is excited to announce the posting of “Untitled 19, Magnificent Mile, IL” by Jon Henry. The billboard, mounted on the corner of 8th Avenue and 38th St, features a photograph of a mother holding her supine son across her lap in a haunted embrace.

The image is part of Henry’s photographic series, *Stranger Fruit*, which he began in response to police violence against African American men. The series draws on the visual language of the *pietà*, a sculptural motif of the Virgin Mary cradling Jesus’s limp body in her lap, in order to capture the tragic eventualities faced by so many families of color. In this case, picturing his subjects on the Magnificent Mile, Chicago’s high-end shopping district, Henry emphasizes that no one is immune to these tragedies and their rippling effects.

The photographer stages these scenes—the mothers he pictures, who come from cities and towns across the country, have not actually lost their sons—but his images evoke the stark reality of a nation where this type of loss is unintelligibly common, where all African American communities are directly affected by racial profiling and police violence. His project poses a broader question: what does it mean to live in a society where parents are unable to protect their children?

In concert with the billboard, the International Center of Photography will host a conversation between Jon Henry and writer Antwaun Sargent about the effects of police brutality on black American families and communities. The event will take place on **April 9th from 6:30-8:00 pm**. More information can be found at <https://www.icp.org/events/stranger-fruit>

The billboard will be on view through April 9th.

About the Artist

Jon Henry is a visual artist born and raised in Queens NY. His work investigates the familial relationship in the African American community in the wake of the murders of African American men due to police violence; starting with his own community and expanding across the country. He also explores the various roles of athletes in a fine art context.

Henry's work has been exhibited nationally in galleries including Aperture Foundation, Smack Mellon, Rubber Factory, NURTUREArt, and BRIC, among others, as well as published internationally. His project, Stranger Fruit, won "Best in Show" at BRIC's Open Call in December 2017.

About 14x48

14x48 repurposes vacant billboards as public art space in order to create more opportunities in public art for emerging artists, to challenge emerging artists to engage more with public art, and to enliven the vibrancy of our urban environment. www.14x48.org

Support

Support for 14x48's public art projects has been made possible by individuals and the NY Community Trust, Lamar Outdoor, and Red Rock Outdoor. 14x48 is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by [Lower Manhattan Cultural Council](#). 14x48 is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit 501(c)(3) arts service organization.

Visiting the Installation

The billboard is located on the corner of 38th Street and 8th Avenue in Manhattan.

Media Contact

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