

# Press Release

# Brooklyn Museum



Photo: Benjamin Lozovsky/BFA.com

## Brooklyn Museum to Honor Artist JR and Studio 54 Cofounder Ian Schrager at Ninth Annual Brooklyn Artists Ball on April 21

Tickets on sale now for Studio 54–inspired gala

The Brooklyn Museum will host its ninth annual Brooklyn Artists Ball, the Museum’s largest fundraising event, on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. This year’s Ball will honor internationally renowned artist JR, as well as entrepreneur and Studio 54 cofounder Ian Schrager. It will take place during the highly anticipated exhibition *Studio 54: Night Magic*, drawing inspiration from the disco era’s most celebrated nightclub and taking thematic cues from the photography, fashion, and set designs featured in the exhibition. Funds from the event support the Brooklyn Museum’s robust exhibitions and public programs.

“We are proud to honor Ian Schrager, whose innovative approach to nightlife helped pioneer one of the most iconic nightclubs of all time. During the 1970s, a period of great social upheaval, Studio 54 was a place where people of all backgrounds and lifestyles could come together and create, helping to usher in a transformative era in New York City’s history,” says Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum. “We are also proud to honor JR, a multimedia artist whose career has spanned geographic, political, and artistic borders over the past two decades. His monumental wheat-pasted images in

cities all over the world have served as catalysts for critical social dialogues, bringing people together in a way that, often, only art can do.”

The Ball will begin at 6:30 pm with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Museum’s lobby, followed by a seated dinner and dancing. The dinner will take place in the soaring Beaux-Arts Court, which will be transformed by visionary event producer David Stark to pay homage to the disco era. Dinner guests will enjoy a unique menu developed in collaboration with Great Performances, the Museum’s exclusive food service partner. Guests will also have access to *Studio 54: Night Magic*, which opens to the public March 13, 2020.

Following dinner, guests are invited to the After Party, which will include special artist projects and installations that draw on the sights, sounds, and experiences of Studio 54. Held in the Museum’s spacious lobby and pavilion, the After Party will feature DJ sets and special surprises to be announced. Tickets go on sale to the public March 3.

Artists Ball Chairs include Regina Aldisert, Sarah Arison, Henry Elsesser, and Carla Shen; Barbara Vogelstein will serve as Honorary Chairman. Host Committee members include Shelley Fox Aarons and Philip E. Aarons, Deenie and Frank Brosens, Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman, Agnes Gund, Susan Hayden, Stephanie and Tim Ingrassia, Michi Jigarjian, Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins, Marley B. Lewis, Olivia Song and Scott Rofey, and Colleen and Graves Tompkins.

The event is supported by Bank of America, Con Edison, Knoll, Inc., and Lafayette 148 New York.

Tickets start at \$2,500; tables for 10 begin at \$25,000. After Party tickets start at \$75 (Members), \$100 (general admission), and \$150 (VIP). For more information about the Brooklyn Artists Ball and After Party, or to purchase tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/AfterParty2020>, email the team at [brooklynartistsball@brooklynmuseum.org](mailto:brooklynartistsball@brooklynmuseum.org), or call 718.501.6424.

## JR

Born in Paris in 1983 to Eastern European and Tunisian immigrant parents, JR began his career as a graffiti artist. After finding a camera in the Paris Metro in 2001, he began documenting his friends in the act of graffitiing and soon started pasting the photographs on building facades throughout urban centers.

JR was awarded the TED Prize in 2011, which inspired *Inside Out: The People’s Art Project*, an international participatory art project that encourages people worldwide to have their picture taken and pasted in public spaces in an effort to share stories, experiences, and beliefs. In 2013, his film based on *Inside Out* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. The project also inspired JR’s installation covering the dome, cupola, and floor of the Pantheon, in Paris, in 2014. *Inside Out* has continued to grow with mobile photo studios operating in the streets of New York, Amsterdam, London, and Paris. As of July 2019, over 400,000 people from more than 141 countries had participated.

JR received his first solo museum exhibitions in 2013 at the Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, and the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, followed by presentations at Museum Frieder Burda, in Baden-Baden, in 2014, and the Hong Kong

Contemporary Art Foundation, in 2015. JR's first major museum exhibition, *MOMENTUM. La mécanique de l'épreuve*, took place at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, in 2018. In May 2019, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art unveiled *The Chronicles of San Francisco*, an animated mural, made of a large LED screen, that features more than 1,200 people from around the city.

## Ian Schrager

For over five decades, Ian Schrager has achieved international recognition for his boundary-pushing concepts in the entertainment, hospitality, and retail industries. Through his nightclubs, hotels, and residential properties, Schrager has changed how people entertain, party, dance, socialize, and vacation. Many of the changes he has brought to these industries have since become standard, illustrating how Schrager's pioneering concepts have set the bar time and time again.

Schrager's keen instinct for new trends in popular culture was honed during the 1970s and 1980s, when he and his late business partner, Steve Rubell, created the groundbreaking Studio 54 and Palladium nightclubs. They soon turned their attention to the hotel business, opening Morgans Hotel in 1984, introducing the idea of the "boutique hotel" to the industry. Schrager's current brand, PUBLIC Hotels, is a further evolution of his previous hotel concepts.

## About the Brooklyn Museum

Founded in 1823 as the Brooklyn Apprentices' Library Association, the Brooklyn Museum contains one of the nation's most comprehensive and wide-ranging collections, enhanced by a distinguished record of exhibitions, scholarship, and service to the public. The Museum's vast holdings span 5,000 years of human creativity from cultures in every corner of the globe. Collection highlights include the ancient Egyptian holdings, renowned for objects of the highest quality, and the American collections, which are unrivaled in their diversity, from Native American art and artifacts and Spanish colonial painting, to nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American painting, sculpture, and decorative objects. The Museum is also home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, which is dedicated to the study and exhibition of feminist art and is the only curatorial center of its kind. The Brooklyn Museum is both a leading cultural institution and a community museum dedicated to serving a broad audience. Located in the heart of Brooklyn, the Museum welcomes and celebrates the diversity of its home borough and city. Few, if any, museums in the country attract an audience as varied with respect to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational background, and age as the audience of the Brooklyn Museum.

## Press Contacts

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