

PRESS RELEASE



Michele Abeles (b. 1977), *Baby Carriage on Bike or Riot Shield as Carriage*, 2015. 204 x 348 in. (518.2 x 883.9 cm). Collection of the artist; courtesy 47 Canal, New York

Work by Michele Abeles Is Featured in Outdoor Art Project

NEW YORK, April 6, 2015—In partnership with TF Cornerstone and High Line Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art will unveil a new commission today, heralding the opening of its Renzo Piano–designed building on Gansevoort Street on May 1. *Baby Carriage on Bike or Riot Shield as Carriage* (2015) by New York–based artist Michele Abeles will become the second in a series of projects by key American artists to be displayed on the façade of TF Cornerstone’s building at 95 Horatio Street, directly across Gansevoort Street from the southern end of the High Line and the Whitney. Alex Katz inaugurated the five-year series last September with his work *Katherine and Elizabeth* (2014).

The new 19-foot-by-29-foot piece includes a number of Abeles’s earlier photographs digitally composited in order to consider the billboard as a site of collapsed time. Abeles’s recycling of her own artworks, a common practice for the artist, here takes on an additional reference to the historical look of billboards, which sometimes weather and erode to peel away layers of advertisements, exposing hidden images from the past. The artist’s use of her own preexisting artworks in this space is also a witty reflection on branding and self-promotion as the contemporary norm in art and life.

This installation is organized by senior curatorial assistants Laura Phipps and Elisabeth Sherman.

About Michele Abeles

Michele Abeles (b. 1977, New York) is an artist based in Brooklyn. She received MFA from Yale University. Abeles has had solo exhibitions at galleries in New York, London, and Athens, Greece. Her work has also been included in numerous group exhibitions at institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art; Dallas Museum of Art; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome; and SculptureCenter, New York. Abeles's work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and Dallas Museum of Art.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1914 as the Whitney Studio Club, and established as a museum in 1930, the Whitney Museum of American Art was first located on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. After moving uptown to West 54th Street in 1954, the Museum was housed for nearly fifty years, from 1966 to 2014, in a building designed by Marcel Breuer on Madison Avenue at 75th Street. On May 1, 2015, the Whitney returns downtown to open its new home, designed by Renzo Piano, at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, adjacent to the southern entrance of the High Line. The new building, which has generated immense anticipation and support, will enable the Whitney to expand its exhibition series, to show far more works from its renowned permanent collection (which now comprises nearly 22,000 works by more than 3,000 artists), to offer a greater variety of performances and programs, and to welcome many more visitors as the Museum continues to grow and evolve.

About TF Cornerstone

TF Cornerstone was an early pioneer in the residential development of Greenwich Village's Meat Market and converted the Manhattan Refrigerating Company building, now 95 Horatio Street, to apartments in 1986. The High Line originally ran through the building at the point where the Whitney installations will hang. TF Cornerstone has been a major presence in the Village for more than 40 years and today is one of the largest apartment owners and managers in New York City. In addition, the company pioneered the transformation of Long Island City's waterfront into an amenity-rich thoroughfare, played a major role in residential development on the West Side of Manhattan, and has developed other notable properties in the Financial District and Upper East Side, among others. The company is owned and directed by K. Thomas and Frederick Elghanayan.

About High Line Art

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

<i>America Is Hard to See</i>	May 1–Sept 27, 2015
<i>Archibald Motley: Jazz Age Modernist</i>	Oct 2, 2015–Jan 17, 2016
<i>Frank Stella</i>	Oct 30, 2015–Feb 7, 2016
<i>The Westreich/Wagner Collection</i>	Nov 20, 2015–Mar 6, 2016
<i>Laura Poitras</i>	Feb 5–May 15, 2016
<i>David Wojnarowicz</i>	Fall 2016/Winter 2017