



**ROBERT LONGO**

*Fugitive Images*

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# *Fugitive Images*

Produced on the occasion of  
"Robert Longo: Fugitive Images" at Metro Pictures, New York  
November 14, 2019 - January 18, 2020  
Installation photography by Genevieve Hanson

## **METRO PICTURES**

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Robert Longo's exhibition *Fugitive Images* includes eight monumental drawings that are part of his ongoing series "The Destroyer Cycle," based on the indelible imagery generated by the current politics of power, greed, aggression, and inhumanity. The exhibition's title references the transitory appearance and displacement of these impactful media images from across the globe. Longo has said that he feels some responsibility toward the episodes depicted, that it is his moral imperative to secure their permanence.

The hyperreal charcoal drawings result from multiple source photographs that Longo modifies before and during the process of executing the work. Longo's portrait of Jamal Khashoggi depicts the slain journalist wearing a traditional keffiyeh and elusively disappearing into a field of static reminiscent of early black and white television. In contrast to the diffused grays of the portrait is a deeply humane and all-too-real stream of migrants on a grueling journey from Central America to the United States. The throng of the migrants is juxtaposed with a close view of North Korean soldiers in the rigid, exaggerated goose step associated with the blind obedience endemic to dictatorial regimes. Longo's drawing of a Jewish cemetery in France crudely vandalized by Neo-Nazis is an exception in its specificity. The spray-painted swastikas fail to obscure the engraved epitaphs on the tombstones that mark the graves of a widow, a religious man who lived a long life, and an honest, hardworking man who died on Shabbat.

Longo's drawing of Congress during Donald Trump's second State of the Union Address adds a moment of optimism. The drawing immortalizes the newly increased ranks of women representatives, who collectively wore white in honor of the suffragette movement, standing out amongst their fellow lawmakers dressed in more traditional dark attire.

## List of Works

1. *Untitled (Marching Soldiers; (Party Foundation Day) Pyongyang, North Korea; October 10, 2015)*, 2019  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 81 1/2 x 140 inches; 207 x 355.6 cm  
frame: 87 3/8 x 145 7/8 inches; 221.9 x 370.5 cm

2. *Untitled (Refugees Moonbird Sighting, Mediterranean Sea; May 5, 2017)*, 2019  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 97 x 120 inches; 246.4 x 304.8 cm  
frame: 102 7/8 x 125 7/8 inches; 261.3 x 319.7 cm

3. *Untitled (Defaced Jewish Cemetery; Strasbourg, France; December 14, 2018)*, 2019  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 96 x 144 inches; 243.8 x 365.8 cm  
frame: 101 7/8 x 149 7/8 inches; 258.8 x 380.7 cm

4. *Untitled (Jamal Ahmad Khashoggi; Istanbul, Turkey; October 2, 2018)*, 2019  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 87 1/2 x 120 inches; 222.3 x 304.8 cm  
frame: 93 3/8 x 125 7/8 inches; 237.2 x 319.7 cm

5. *Untitled (Caravan; Arriaga, Mexico; October 27, 2018)*, 2019  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 97 x 132 inches; 246.4 x 335.3 cm  
frame: 102 7/8 x 137 7/8 inches; 261.3 x 350.2 cm

6. *Untitled (Statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee Covered; Charlottesville, Virginia; August 12, 2017)*, 2018  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 120 x 95 1/4 inches; 304.8 x 241.9 cm  
framed: 125 1/4 x 100 1/2 inches; 318.1 x 255.3 cm

7. *Untitled (State of the Union; Washington, D.C., USA; February 5, 2019)*, 2019  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 96 x 146 inches; 243.8 x 370.8 cm  
frame: 101 7/8 x 151 7/8 inches; 258.8 x 385.8 cm

8. *Untitled (Russian Air Strike; Syria, 2015)*, 2017  
charcoal on mounted paper  
image: 97 x 140 1/16 inches; 246.4 x 355.8 cm  
frame: 102 5/8 x 145 7/8 inches; 260.7 x 370.5 cm







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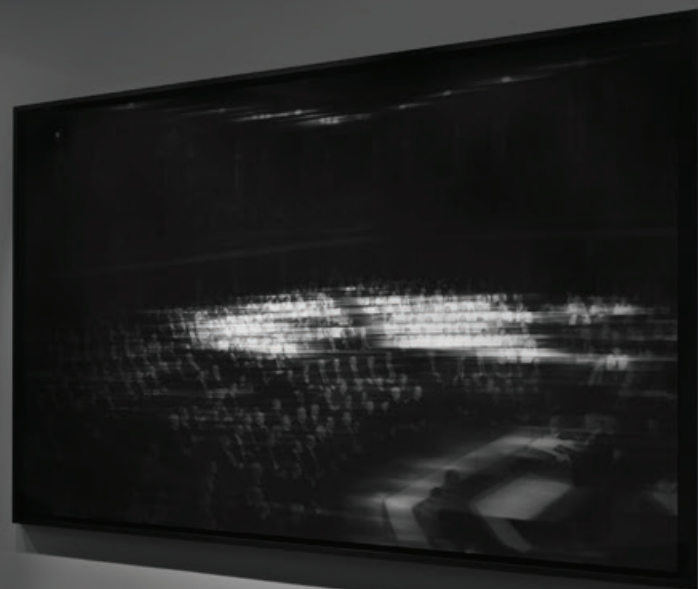


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