

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
Press Office

99 Gansevoort Street  
New York, NY 10014

pressoffice@whitney.org  
(212) 570-3633

# PRESS RELEASE



Screenshot of *Riccardo Uncut* (2018)

## **RICCARDO UNCUT (2018) BY EVA AND FRANCO MATTES LAUNCH ON THE WHITNEY'S ARTPORT**

**NEW YORK, MAY 8, 2018** – Today, *Riccardo Uncut* by Eva and Franco Mattes debuts on [artport](#), the Whitney's portal to Internet art and online gallery space for commissions of net art.

For this project, the artists posted an offer on social media to buy someone's phone for \$1,000, including all the photos and videos contained therein. The artists would turn the purchased materials into an uncensored archive of someone's life, accessible to the public as a chronological slideshow. The resulting work, consisting of approximately 3,000 images taken between 2004 and 2017, documents the daily life of Riccardo, including friends, family, travel, sexual desire, food, and art.

Christiane Paul, adjunct curator of new media arts, said, "The piece investigates how individuals construct digital memory and whether a photo can truly be private in the digital age. Social media creates the opportunity to perform an idealized version of oneself. With *Riccardo Uncut*, the artists investigate whether one might find authentic self-representation in an unedited archive."

The sale was also a central conceptual element of the project. The phone owner's willingness to sell the raw documentation of his personal life mirrors agreeing to the terms of service of social media platforms.

*Riccardo Uncut* continues Eva and Franco Mattes's ongoing investigations of privacy, transparency, voyeurism, and exhibitionism pursued in *Life Sharing* (2000–2003) and *The Others* (2011).

### **About the Artists**

Eva and Franco Mattes (b. 1976, Italy) are based in New York. Their work has been shown at the 20th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia; Electronic Superhighway and Artists' Film International, Whitechapel Gallery, London, England; Big Bang Data, Somerset House, London, England; Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium; Performa, New York, USA; MoMA PS1, New York, USA; New Museum, New York, USA; NTT ICC Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Manifesta, Frankfurt, Germany; and the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

### **About artport**

Artport is the Whitney Museum's portal to Internet art and an online gallery space for commissions of net art and new media art. Originally launched in 2001, artport provides access to original art works commissioned specifically for artport by the Whitney; documentation of net art and new media art exhibitions at the Whitney; and new media art in the Museum's collection.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

### **Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art**

Mary Corse	June 8 – November 25, 2018
Pacha, Llaqta, Wasichay: Indigenous Space, Modern Architecture, New Art	July 13 – September 30, 2018
David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night	July 13 – September 30, 2018
Kevin Beasley	Opens Fall 2018
Andy Warhol – From A to B and Back Again	November 12, 2018 – March 31, 2019
Juan Antonio Olivares: Moléculas	Until June 10, 2018
Zoe Leonard: Survey	Until June 10, 2018
Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables	Until June 10, 2018
Nick Mauss	Until May 14, 2018
Between the Waters	Until July 22, 2018
An Incomplete History of Protest:	Until August 27, 2018
Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1940–2017	
Flash: Photographs by Harold Edgerton from the Whitney's Collection	Ongoing
Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection 1900–1960	Ongoing
Christine Sun Kim: Too Much Future	Ongoing

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm; Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm. Closed Tuesday. Adults: \$25. Full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$18. Visitors 18 years & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org).

###