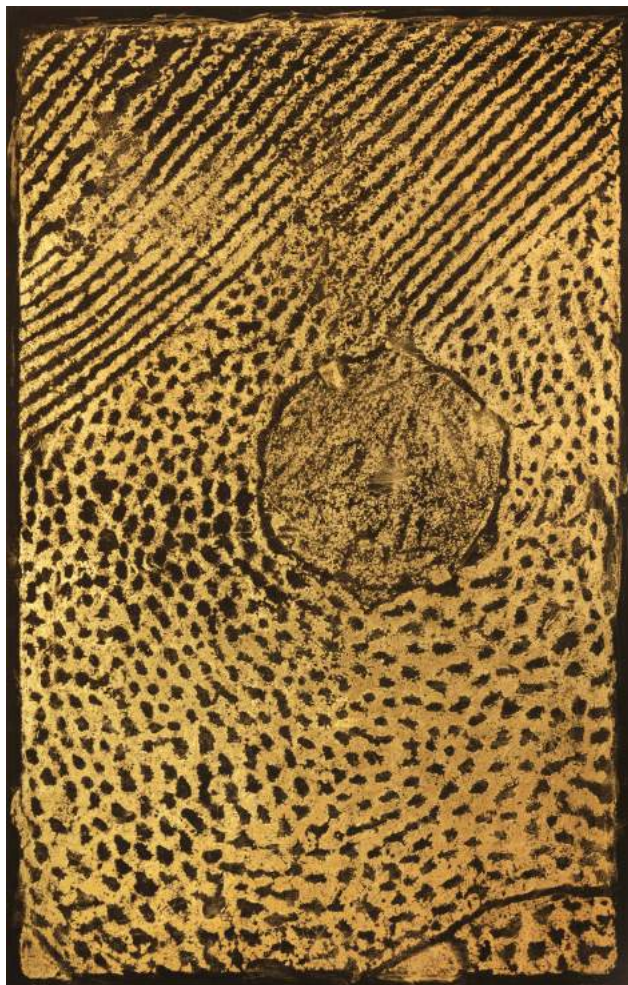


JAMES NARES

Monuments

509 WEST 27TH STREET

MAY 23 - JUNE 29, 2019



Kasmin is pleased to present an exhibition of James Nares' newest body of work, entitled *Monuments*, on view at 509 West 27th Street between May 23 – June 29, 2019.

New York City's oldest surviving downtown sidewalks were made almost 200 years ago by immigrant masons who lined the streets with giant paving stones of solid granite. These monolithic slabs they then chiseled with improvised marks and designs, to prevent pedestrians from slipping. These carvings have withstood the erosion of time and foot traffic, leaving a record of free thought and personal markings from the hands and minds of long-forgotten workmen.

Nares made wax frottage rubbings of selected stones and brought them back to his studio where he gilded them with 22-carat gold. Hanging vertically on the wall, they are shining monuments to whom he calls, "the unknown souls whose touch still lingers on the city's sidewalks."

Continuing Nares' lifelong investigation into motion, time and gesture —the "central conceits of Nares' artistic production"¹—these works register the topography of the city which has acted as protagonist and collaborator throughout his oeuvre, notably in films such as *Ramp* (1976) and *STREET* (2011). Tracing the materiality of lower Manhattan, where Nares has lived and worked since the 1970s, the works spotlight immigrant labor and its integral place in the fabric of the city.

The artist whose work this exhibition celebrates is referred to as James Nares and with the pronoun 'he/his' in all print materials. This was at the request of Jamie Nares, who is now public with her gender identity. The gallery continues to work with the artist so that we may best reflect her wishes and privacy during this transition. (Addendum June 2019.)

ABOUT JAMES NARES

Over the course of a five-decade career, Nares has investigated, challenged, and expanded the boundaries of his multimedia practice that encompasses film, music, painting, photography, and performance. He continues to employ various media to explore physicality, motion, and the unfolding of time.

Nares has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and this summer, a career-spanning retrospective at Milwaukee Art Museum. His work is included in several prominent public collections, including the Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. A career-spanning survey of his film and video works were presented in 2008 at Anthology Film Archives, New York; and in 2011 at IFC Center, New York. In 2014, Rizzoli published a comprehensive monograph on Nares' career to date. Nares has lived and worked in New York since 1974. He has been represented by Kasmin since 1991.

Image: James Nares, *Prince II*, 2018, 22k gold leaf on Evolon, 86 1/8 x 54 1/4 x 2 1/2 inches, 218.8 x 137.8 x 6.3 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and Kasmin Gallery.

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¹ Marcelle Polednik, PhD, Donna and Donald Baumgartner Director. Excerpted from "James Nares: Motion Pictures" from the exhibition catalogue "Nares: Moves," Milwaukee Art Museum.