

## Ann Veronica Janssens/Baltimore

Bortolami is pleased to announce the commencement of a sprawling, ongoing project by Ann Veronica Janssens in Baltimore, Maryland, the fifth of the gallery's Artist/City programming initiative. Whereas previous Artist/City projects have taken place in (albeit atypical) exhibition spaces, Janssens's project exists *en plein air*, across the city of Baltimore.

Coinciding with the artist's exhibition at the Baltimore Museum of Art, featuring one of her iconic *Fog Star* works installed in the museum's Neoclassical Spring House directly adjacent to the main museum building, Janssens will mount approximately 20 "silver screens" on the facades of theaters and cinemas across the city in the coming months. At a range of different sizes—but always in the proportion of classic widescreen film—these "silver screens" refer to the impressive history of theaters and cinemas unique to Baltimore. Between 1900 and 1970, the city constructed a total of 235 theaters, far more than in most American cities. Some of these theaters are still open, others closed, and still others repurposed.

Janssens was drawn to the architectural typology of theaters and specifically cinemas in Baltimore for their symbolic value—at a fundamental level these buildings were conceived to perform just as her work does: transforming light into content. At the core of Janssens's practice is a keen interest in light's ability to dramatically alter one's perception and experience. Coated in aluminum leaf, these "silver screens" also refer to Baltimore's history in the silver industry.

For a map of all the silver screens around Baltimore, please visit:

<http://bortolamigallery.com/artistcity/>

This project was made possible through partnership with the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Station North Arts and Entertainment District, Bromo Tower Arts and Entertainment District, The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, Amy Davis, and Michael Kramer on behalf of the Society of Gilders.

Ann Veronica Janssens's exhibition at the Baltimore Museum of Art will be on view from May 30 through October 31, 2018.

Artist / City is an experimental programming initiative that pairs an artist with an American city. Taking place in unconventional settings for longer durations than the standard gallery exhibition, these site-responsive projects grant artists freedom to present their work according to their own creative vision. Previous projects include *Daniel Buren/Miami*, *Eric Wesley/St. Louis*, *Tom Burr/New Haven* (alternatively titled *BODY / BUILDING*). Another current project is *Jutta Koether/Philadelphia*. *Barbara Kasten/Chicago* is forthcoming.

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