



For Immediate Release



Jordan Casteel, *The Baayfalls*, 2017/2019. Artwork image courtesy the artist and Joyner/Giuffrida Collection, San Francisco, CA and Casey Kaplan, NY. Photo by Timothy Schenck.

## **JORDAN CASTEEL**

### *The Baayfalls*

The artist's first public artwork

**December 2019 – December 2020**  
**Next to the High Line at 22nd St**

**New York, NY (December 16, 2019)** — High Line Art announces *The Baayfalls*, a new High Line Commission by artist Jordan Casteel. For the High Line, a large-scale mural recreating Casteel's 2017 oil painting of the same name will be hand-painted on a wall overlooking the park near 22nd Street. The mural, on view December 2019 through December 2020, will be the largest presentation of Casteel's work to date and her first public artwork. Previously, the location featured works by Dorothy Iannone, Henry Taylor, Barbara Kruger, and other well-known artists.

Jordan Casteel is best known for her portraiture. Her vibrant, larger-than-life canvases portray the gazes, gestures, and lives of the individuals who surround her, including family, friends, her students, fellow subway riders, and people she meets on the sidewalk. Casteel works from

**HIGH LINE ART**



hundreds of photographs, which allow her to spend hours incorporating the many small details that bring her paintings to life. She paints her subjects as they choose to be seen in their homes or places of work—with friends or family, and the objects that surround them. Inspired by painters such as Alice Neel and Faith Ringgold, Casteel thinks through histories of portrait painting and the ways it creates the world as much as reflects it.

*The Baayfalls* is a double portrait of Fallou—a woman Casteel befriended during her artist residency at The Studio Museum in Harlem—and Fallou’s brother, Baaye Demba Sow. The pair are pictured outside the museum at Fallou’s table, where she sold hats she designed. When Fallou’s brother arrived in New York from Senegal, Casteel asked the two to sit for a portrait. The title references Baye Fall, a sect of the Sufi brotherhood Mouride, of which Fallou’s brother is a member. The gesture Fallou makes with her left hand signifies Allah among members of Baye Fall. Casteel’s work for the High Line extends the Harlem sidewalk to the park, connecting public spaces of different neighborhoods across the city. Through her portraiture, Casteel adds deeply nuanced expressions of human experience to the expanding collection of images we see every day.

“Through the subjects she selects and the layers of details and narratives she embeds in her canvases, Jordan Casteel portrays a timely reflection of our contemporary life,” says Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art. “It’s an honor and a joy to introduce her solemn yet warm painting *The Baayfalls* to the public space of the High Line.”

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Jordan Casteel (b. 1989, Denver, Colorado) lives and works in New York, New York. Casteel has presented solo exhibitions at the New Museum, New York, New York (forthcoming, 2020); Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford, California (2019); and Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado (2019). Notable group exhibitions include *New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century*, UC Berkeley Art Museum, California (forthcoming, 2020); *She Persists: A Century of Women Artists in New York*, Gracie Mansion, New York, New York (2019); Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas (2018); *One Day at a Time: Manny Farber and Termite Art*, MOCA, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California (2018); *The Half-Life of Love*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts (2017); and *Regarding the Figure*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York (2017).

#### **ABOUT HIGH LINE ART**

Founded in 2009, High Line Art commissions and produces a wide array of artwork, including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Led by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art Cecilia Alemani, and presented by the High Line, the art program invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the unique architecture, history, and design of the park, and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

For further information about High Line Art, please visit [thehighline.org/art](https://thehighline.org/art).

#### **ABOUT THE HIGH LINE**

The High Line is both a nonprofit organization and a public park on the West Side of Manhattan. Through our work with communities on and off the High Line, we’re devoted to



reimagining public spaces to create connected, healthy neighborhoods and cities.

Built on a historic, elevated rail line, the High Line was always intended to be more than a park. You can walk through gardens, view art, experience a performance, enjoy food and beverage, or connect with friends and neighbors—all while enjoying a unique perspective of New York City.

Nearly 100% of our annual budget comes through donations. The High Line is owned by the City of New York and we operate under a license agreement with NYC Parks.

## **SUPPORT**

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@HighLineArtNYC #JordanCasteel @jordanmcasteel

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