

Wall Street International  
ART

# The ADAA Show at the Park Avenue Armory

Art Fair Mania in the Big Apple

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DANIEL GAUSS



*Chris Marker: Koreans* presented by Peter Blum Gallery Photo by Charles Roussel

Chris Marker at Peter Blum – Marker made one of the greatest experimental films of all time *Sans Soleil*, which seems, at times, to be a reflection on what Melville called the “mystery of iniquity”. The film often shows a world in which the frail bonds of morality and compassion have been abandoned and, as Sophocles puts it, good has become evil and evil has become good. Among one of the scenes I will never forget is footage of hunters in a helicopter chasing after and shooting wolves in a pack as they helplessly try to outrun the airborne hunters. At one point, as the helicopter hovers over a wolf, the wolf spins around and seems to make eye contact with those in the helicopter. The snarling and exhausted wolf shows a type of incomprehension but also rage, or outrage, at the gratuitous cruelty as the hunters laugh gleefully.

Blum has a series of photos by Marker from North Korea during the year of 1957. Some folks have written that this is a type of contemporary political statement, compelling viewers to see North Koreans as something other than enemies. Yet, I believe we all feel great sympathy for the North Korean people and their current situation, especially for those languishing under torture, brutal treatment and starvation in political concentration camps. Political and diplomatic engagement to change this seems to be a moral imperative for every civilized country. What folks writing about these photos have missed is that North Korea was, to some historians, a better place to live than South Korea for a substantial amount of time. It might have been Marker’s intention (righteous

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instigator that he was) to show this. Thus, the images become a reflection on another failed social experiment and why this one went so wrong and, frankly, a reflection on the extent to which dominant nations like the USA, China, Russia and Japan contributed and may continue to contribute to the horror there.