

PRESS RELEASE

J&B, *THE DIVIDED STATE OF AMERICA*, 2020
10 OCTOBER – 10 NOVEMBER, 2020

In the weeks leading up to the U.S. presidential election, artist duo J&B will radically alter the façade of EENWERK Gallery with a new work, *The Divided State of America* – a monumental, transparent variation of the American flag.

J&B's American flag, composed of colored garbage bags, is presented upside down to distress and resistance. The flag is missing several stars and stripes, accentuating the experience of exclusion familiar to so many American population groups. Texts and tweets projected onto the flag create a symbol of American division, exemplified by the two-party system and harder to resolve than ever before.

J&B pinpoints signs of instability revealed in police brutality, racism, high unemployment, the corona pandemic, and a president who refuses to represent the entire nation. America appears to have lost its way.

The exhibition space includes EENWERK's interior as well as its exterior. Inside, the work radiates an overwhelming atmosphere. When evening falls, the focus shifts to the side visible from the street. The 'stained-glass' is lit by video projections. Texts and tweets appear on the flag, while the flag's stars light up and fade out.

J&B (Rotterdam, NL) sees the public space as a reflection of society in all its banality, beauty and creativity. Materials and attitudes from the street merge together in video installations, sculptures, and contemporary painting.

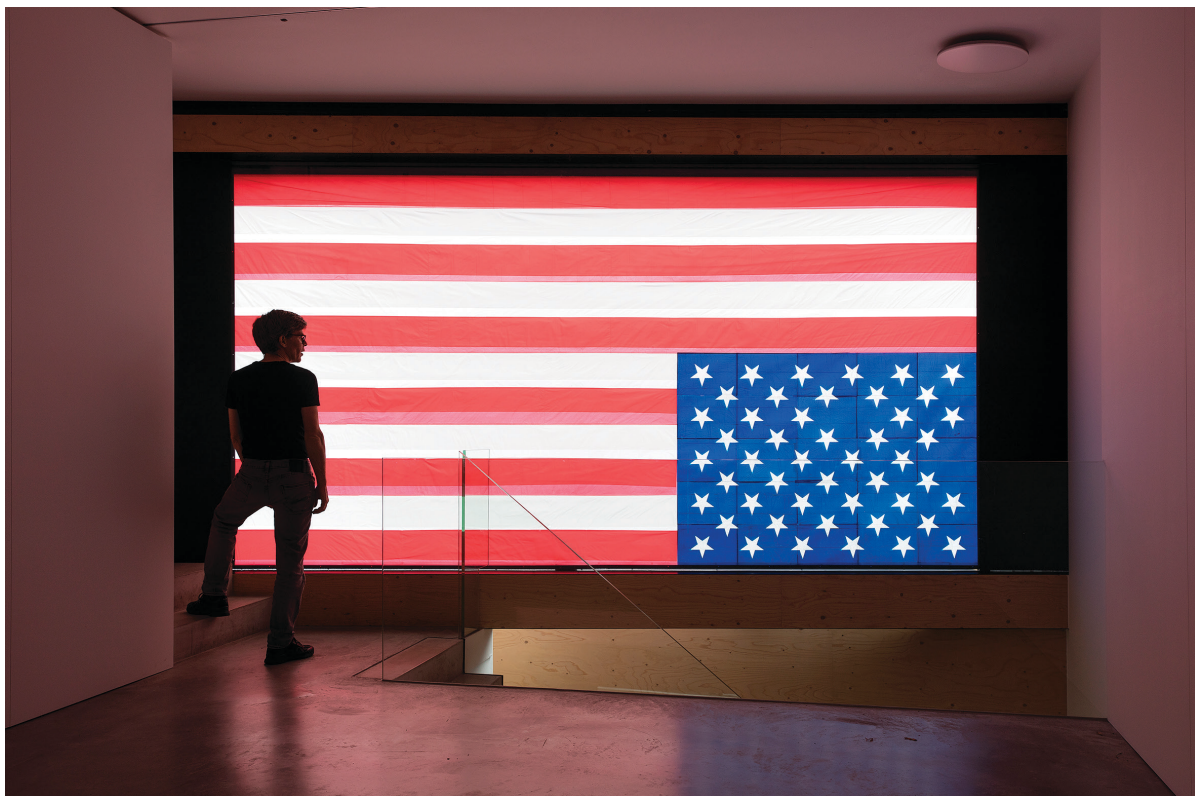
In this way, the duo follows in the footsteps of a line of artists previously shown at EENWERK who were active in the public space. Among these is David Hammons. His *African-American Flag* (1990) was the very first work presented at EENWERK, as a one-day exhibition in 2017.

J&B, Jacob and Bert Frings, live and work in Rotterdam

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COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS & EENWERK



PHOTOS ERNITS MORITZ

J&B, *THE DIVIDED STATE OF AMERICA*, 2020
MIXED MEDIA/VIDEO PROJECTION
234 x 445 CM
EDITION OF 3
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