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At the 30th-Anniversary ADAA Art Show, Dealers Bring the New and Artists Lampoon Trump

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Work by Chris Marker in the booth of Peter Blum Gallery, at the 2018 ADAA Art Show at the Park Avenue Armory. MAXIMILÍANO DURÓN/ARTNEWS

New York's Peter Blum Gallery turned over its booth to a timely series: Chris Marker's photographs of North Koreans. Some of the works had previously been shown at the New York gallery in 2014, but since then, they've taken on a new significance. Marker, who is best known for his essayistic documentaries, took the photographs when he traveled to North Korea in 1957 as a journalist. Most of the images depict nothing special: women stroll through city streets, mountainous forests appear overgrown with trees, men smile for the camera. (In an unusually straightforward one, a little girl stares at a political cartoon about U.S. involvement in her country.) For the most part, these works are extremely ordinary, and this is their point—they depict North Korean citizens as perfectly harmless, totally normal people. In today's climate, they act as arguments against Trumpian threats of war.