

ARTFORUM

DECEMBER 2011

BEST OF 2011

This December, *Artforum* invited preeminent artists, critics, and curators from near and far to cast an expert eye on the year in art. Twelve contributors count down their top ten highlights of 2011, while four others single out luminary exhibitions. Of course, beyond the pervious edges of the art world, other potent images and experiences present themselves. Amid the momentous unrest sweeping the globe, cultural theorist ARIELLA AZOULAY and critic NEGAR AZIMI seek to address new forms of signification and protest in our time.

Michael Ned Holte is a member of the art program faculty at the California Institute of the Arts and a frequent contributor to *Artforum*. His writing has recently appeared in the exhibition catalogue for “Hany Armanious: The Golden Thread” (Australian Council for the Arts) and will be included in the forthcoming volume *Live Art in LA: Performance Art in Southern California, 1970 – 1983* (Routledge).

SIMON LEUNG: WAR AFTER WAR

A Pole born in a German displaced persons’ camp, Warren Niesluchowski immigrated to the United States as a young man and joined the army, only to desert during Vietnam. Today he remains a globe-trotting nomad who relies on the hospitality of friends and strangers, frequently appearing at art openings all over the world without ever seeming to desire anything more than smart conversation and an opportunity to burst into song. *War After War*, Leung’s 2011 video portrait of Niesluchowski, works quietly, entirely avoiding didacticism while gently framing its subject—part flaneur, part monk—as an idiosyncratic model of resistance.

