



Details of Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (Spanish, 1746–1828). *They Carried Her Off!* (reproduced in black and white) from *Los Caprichos*, 1797–98. Brooklyn Museum; A. Augustus Healy Fund, Frank L. Babbott Fund, and Carl H. de Silver Fund, 37.33.8. (Photo: Jonathan Dorado, Brooklyn Museum); Sergei Eisenstein (Russian, 1898–1948). Still from *Alexander Nevsky*, 1938. Gosfilmofond (National Film Foundation of Russian Federation); Robert Longo (American, born 1953). *Untitled (St. Louis Rams/Hands Up)*, 2015. Collection of the artist. (Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Metro Pictures, New York)

## Proof: Francisco Goya, Sergei Eisenstein, Robert Longo

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017–JANUARY 7, 2018

Morris A. and Meyer Schapiro Wing and Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Gallery, 5th Floor

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At particular moments in history, artists use their artwork to reveal social, cultural, and political complexities, responding with urgency and conviction to the times in which they live. Bringing together the striking work of three innovative chroniclers, *Proof: Francisco Goya, Sergei Eisenstein, Robert Longo* offers insight into the energy, empathy, and creativity with which these artists recounted and reimagined often disturbing realities.

Together spanning four centuries and three continents, Spanish artist Francisco Goya (1746–1828), Russian filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein (1898–1948), and contemporary American artist Robert Longo (born 1953) each witnessed a turbulent transition from one century to another and the profound repercussions of revolution, war, and civil unrest. Within a broad chronological framework, *Proof* traces the historical lineage of a visual language and artistic impulse.

Featuring artwork almost exclusively in black and white, *Proof* showcases the artists' technical acuity and bold experimentation in three mediums: etching, film, and charcoal drawing. With a rare combination of selections, it invites viewers to find new meaning in artworks not normally encountered together. These works call to mind images—such as mutiny on a Russian battleship, or American riot police standing guard at a political protest—that are usually represented through journalistic coverage, yet they express the artists' personal, often emotional, perspectives. As the exhibition title suggests, Goya, Eisenstein, and Longo together provide powerful proof not only of significant events or actions, but more crucially of their ongoing resonances through art.

*Proof: Francisco Goya, Sergei Eisenstein, Robert Longo* is initiated by the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, and curated by Kate Fowle, Garage Chief Curator, in collaboration with Robert Longo. The Brooklyn Museum presentation is organized by Sara Softness, Assistant Curator, Special Projects, Brooklyn Museum.

A fully illustrated companion book, *Proof: Francisco Goya, Sergei Eisenstein, Robert Longo*, with essays by journalist, activist, and author Chris Hedges; artist Vadim Zakharov; and Kate Fowle; as well as an interview with Robert Longo, will be published in Russian and English. The English edition features a foreword by Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director of the Brooklyn Museum, and an essay on Robert Longo by Nancy Spector, former Deputy Directory and Chief Curator, Brooklyn Museum.