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Politics

Shepard Fairey, Marilyn Minter, and Other Artists Share Their Reactions to America's Divisive Midterm Elections

We check in with the same figures we spoke to after 2016 election.

Sarah Cascone, November 8, 2018



Voters cast their ballots. Photo by Frederic J. Brown/AFP/Getty Images.

In November 2016, 23 artists talked to artnet News about their reaction to the election of Donald Trump. Two years into his presidency, the US midterm elections saw the Democrats regain a majority in the House of Representatives and the Republicans further cement their majority in the Senate. We checked in with those same artists to see how their feelings about the country, its future, and their place in it have changed since we last spoke.

We asked them: How have your views evolved over the past two years (on immigration, the economy, etc.)? How do you feel about the outcome of the midterms? And how do you think this election will affect your practice, and the country, moving forward?

Notably, many artists looked at the same results but had strikingly different reactions. Here is what they had to say. We will be adding to this post as more responses come in.

Patricia Cronin



Patricia Cronin. Courtesy of Mark Blower.

I didn't know we were going to see, baldly, the extent of human beings' capacity for cruelty and hatred these last two years. The misogyny, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, etc. has been terrifying.

Based on the outcome of the midterms, I'm relieved and cautiously optimistic that there will be checks and balances on the president with the Democratic control of Congress and they can finally thoroughly investigate this administration's rampant corruption and curtail their dangerous policies.

I will continue my unwavering commitment to creating artwork with social justice and feminist subjects like marriage equality and global human rights of women. I think the Democratic Governorship wins should work to reduce gerrymandering and toward equal access to voting for all people. Moving forward, I want the Democrats to fight hard; women, LGBT people, and people of color to continue to rise in leadership; and I want our fellow citizens to fight back against white male supremacy.

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