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visual arts contemporary art

## After the anti-Trump work, Martin Roth returns with an exhibition in New York against the use of weapons

by Mariacristina Ferraioli - March 27, 2018



Martin Roth

The relationship between the United States and the use of weapons is a subject that profoundly affects international public opinion. Always high number of massacres, often the work of people who in life have shown no sign of imbalance, always too easy access to weapons. And while politics has been questioning for years whether or not to raise the age of access to guns or whether or not to arm the categories considered most at risk, such as teachers and traders, is by artists, in the broadest sense of the term, that a strong mobilization signal arrives. Stars of the caliber of Madonna, Lady Gaga, John Mayer have publicly asked the government to adopt stricter laws after the massacre on October 1, 2017 in Las Vegas which killed 58 people and injured hundreds. **Martin Roth** (Vienna, 1977) who will be at the center of an exhibition that will open on March 31st in the Yours, Mine and Ours gallery on the Lower East Side in New York.

## The OPERA

Already last year, the artist of Austrian origin had exhibited, again in New York, [an anti-Trump work](#) that had made much discussion. A huge lavender field created in an underground gallery of the Australian Cultural Forum in Manhattan and fueled by the popularity of the president's tweets and the controversy they cause all over the world. The new job is likely to generate even more discussions. Roth took a plant from the garden of Stephen Paddock, the man who shot the crowd at a music festival in Las Vegas, and transported it to New York: the plant is the focus of the installation that the artist will present in exhibition entitled *In November 2017 I collected a plant from the garden of a mass shooter*. Even the other objects that make up the work have somehow to do with the massacre, because they were taken from the hotel room from which Paddock fired.

## MOBILIZATION AGAINST WEAPONS

Rather than describing the massacre in a didactic way, Roth intends to create a space for discussion on violence in the United States and to stimulate visitors, of all ages, to take a position of protest. The constant repetition of a pattern that unites all the massacres is a sort of macabre uniqueness of the United States compared to the rest of the world. A ritual that leads automatically to commemorate the victims, invite the population to support the affected community, to mobilize public opinion against the weapons and then quickly forget the story until the next massacre. After the shooting in a school in Parkland, Florida, by a student who opened fire on his classmates, Martin Roth's action took a more active turn. The Austrian artist will distribute,

## ACTIVE COMMITMENT

Roth hopes that the installation is not only a means to reflect on the massacres, but hopes that his work can also contribute to direct action and mobilization against the use of weapons. The hope is to sell the work to a museum in order to donate the proceeds to the victims of the Las Vegas massacre.

- *Mariacristina Ferraioli*

*Martin Roth - In November 2017 I collected a plant from the garden of a mass shooter / March 31 -13 May 2018*

*Yours, Mine and Ours*

*54 eldridge street*

*New York, ny. 10002*

<http://yoursmineandourgallery.com>

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