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Carrigan, Margaret; Helmke, Juliet and Guelda Voien, "The 51 Artists, Curators, Directors and Dealers Changing the Art World in 2018," *Observer*, May 9, 2018

Trevor Paglen



Trevor Paglen. Courtesy the Artist

For an artist whose work probes the perils of surveillance (and has spent a sizeable chunk of his career in remote deserts with little company except for drones and a camera) 43-year-old Berlin-based Trevor Paglen is in the spotlight more than ever lately. Even more so after winning a MacArthur "genius" grant last year.

Using his background in photography and geography, Paglen has been quietly documenting satellite launches at obscure military bases, Internet cables buried in the ocean seafloor, and locating secret National Security Agency sites for the better part of a decade. Last fall he debuted a new body of work in his "A Study of Invisible Images" show at New York's Metro Pictures gallery, exploring the potential of A.I. making art.

In June, the Smithsonian American Art Museum will mount the first major survey of Paglen's work. If you can't make it to D.C. to see the show, you only have to look up to catch a glimpse of this pioneering artist's most ambitious project to date. With the help of the Nevada Museum of Art, Paglen will launch the world's first space sculpture this spring. Called *Orbital Reflector*, the mirrored inflatable object will be visible in the night sky around the globe while it traverses Earth's low orbit for roughly eight weeks before disintegrating.