

## Jay Z's gallery performance reunites hip-hop and art



Jay Z has unveiled the full version of Picasso Baby. (Photo by Jim Ross/Invision/AP)

Jay-Z has found a home for hip-hop in the upper class through the art world.

Upon the release of Jay-Z's "Magna Carta... Holy Grail" that has had mixed reviews mainly critiquing the length of the album, Jay-Z released "Jay Z 'Picasso Baby: A Performance Art Film'" to give his naysayers and fans something more to take in.

The video opens up with Jay-z explaining his views on performing art and how it is an experience for both the **audience and artist**.

Hip-hop being one of the purest forms of self expression, he sees that it should be done in a place where art is appreciated.

His performance was done at the [Pace Gallery in Manhattan](#), New York with the attendance of high-profiled people in the art world. The rapper didn't use a microphone to project his voice for his new song from the late album, "Picasso Baby"

The guest took turns in sitting down face to face with Jay-Z as he performed. the bench set up in front of the stage made the entire set up have a Mark Rothko feel. Hence Jay-Z quoting "...I want a Rothko.."

Among the many artist and directors Judd Apatow and Jim Jarmusch, the one artist the stuck out the most was Serbian performance artist, Marina Abramovic.

This performance is something to praise, showing the hip-hop world making it's way into the art world.

Hip-hop being acknowledged in this light is long overdue. whether the messages of certain songs maybe explicit and demeaning, this is the exhibition of a culture and its struggles.

Another hip-hop artist that has done a merging with another form of the art world is Kanye West with fashion. Cosigning with Louis Vuitton first and now his A.P.C collection which sold out immediately after its release.

The director of the video, Mark Romanek, did a fine job showing Jay Z "fitting in", better yet setting, high society.

**Jay- Z "Picasso Baby: A Performance Art Film"**