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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MCA Chicago to open *entre horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico* on August 19**

CHICAGO— The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago will open the exhibition *entre horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico*, organized by Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator Carla Acevedo-Yates, on August 19, 2023. The exhibition will be open through May 5, 2024, in the Sylvia Neil and Daniel Fischel Galleries.

“The MCA is thrilled to showcase a project that underlines the deeply intertwined histories of Chicago and Puerto Rico,” Pritzker Director Madeleine Grynsztejn said. “The MCA has always played a foundational role in supporting the art of Chicago and its people. By celebrating the cultural exchange between Chicago and Puerto Rico, *entre horizontes* is another step in this direction.”

*entre horizontes* examines the intersection of art and social justice movements of the Puerto Rican diaspora between Chicago and Puerto Rico. The show traces the artistic and activist efforts resulting from the migration of Puerto Ricans to the city of Chicago, which included many artists who continued their arts education here. The exhibition title plays upon the horizon line, which connects Chicago and Puerto Rico over the waters of Lake Michigan and the Caribbean respectively, using it as a metaphor for art, social justice, identity, and place across geographic borders. Highlighting stories of Puerto Rican anti-colonialism and resistance, *entre horizontes* centers Chicago as a key city in the ongoing advocacy and pursuit of self-determination for the Puerto Rican people.

Today, more than 100,000 Puerto Ricans call Chicago and its greater metropolitan area home. Puerto Ricans first arrived in significant numbers to the city in the late 1940s. Companies recruited men and women on the archipelago to work in foundries, steel mills, and as domestic

workers. Puerto Ricans established close-knit communities in Lincoln Park, Wicker Park, Woodlawn, and Humboldt Park, among other areas. Through organizations such as the Puerto Rican Congress of Mutual Aid and Los Caballeros de San Juan—the latter of which held their 1956 Día de San Juan celebrations at the Illinois National Guard Chicago Avenue Armory, which was located in the same area where the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago now stands—Puerto Ricans developed a sense of community and belonging in Chicago while organizing against racism, police brutality, housing discrimination, and poor working conditions.

In 1966, looking to Chicago from Puerto Rico, the musician Simón Gómez wrote the *jibaro*-style song “Los Motines de Chicago” (The Riots of Chicago) in response to the Division Street uprising, which erupted on Division Street—or what is now known as *Paseo Boricua*—in Humboldt Park. The days-long rebellion began on the evening of June 12, 1966, after Arcelis Cruz, a young Puerto Rican man, was shot in the leg by Chicago police officer Thomas Munyon following the celebrations of the Puerto Rican parade in downtown Chicago. The Division Street uprising was followed by the 1977 Humboldt Park Rebellion, during which two young Puerto Rican men, Julio Osorio and Rafael Cruz, were murdered by Chicago police lieutenant Thomas Walton. Both rebellions impacted the Puerto Rican community profoundly, effecting a sea change in political consciousness and leadership in the areas of nonprofit organizing, city government, and other forms of activism, including armed revolutionary efforts.

For example, the Young Lords street gang became politicized in the years after the uprising and, under the leadership of José “Cha Cha” Jiménez, transformed into the anti-colonial, activist group called the Young Lords Organization. Numerous grassroots community organizations and anticolonial groups also formed, such as the Spanish Action Committee of Chicago, the Latin American Defense Organization, Segundo Ruiz Cultural Center, Roberto Clemente Community Academy, the Spanish Coalition for Housing, and the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Many organizations remain deeply active in community organizing and in shaping public policy today, advocating for issues that affect Latine communities in Chicago, such as housing rights, gentrification, police brutality, bilingual education, and immigration.

“Featuring works from an intergenerational group of artists, *entre horizontes* positions Chicago as a pivotal hub for the education of Puerto Rican artists in the United States, and as a center for Puerto Rican anticolonial struggles,” said Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator Carla Acevedo-Yates. “National conversations on Puerto Rican migration to the United States usually focus on Eastern states like New York and Florida. This exhibition highlights the historic migration of Puerto Ricans to the Midwest, and the important role that Chicago-born grassroots community organizations have played in the struggles for liberation and self-determination. We are honored to be able to shed light on these important histories at the MCA.”

## **RELATED PROGRAMMING**

To commemorate the opening of the exhibition, the MCA will host a celebration on opening day from 10 am to 5 pm. Festivities will include a conversation between Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator Carla Acevedo-Yates and José Lopez, a performance by nibia pastrana santiago with Eduardo F. Rosario, and limited-edition pastries by Chef Natalia Boa Rosario at the Marisol counter.

### **Talk | Carla Acevedo-Yates with José E. Lopez**

Edlis Neeson Theater

Saturday, August 19 | 11 am–12:15 pm

The opening talk will be between Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator Carla Acevedo-Yates and educator, activist, and writer José E. López. In 1959, López's family moved to Chicago as part of the massive Puerto Rican migration to the United States. During his time in the city, he has been involved in activism on the ground and in writing, including editing the publication *Puerto Rican Nationalism: A Reader* (1977). The two will talk about the past and present of Puerto Rican activism in Chicago.

Immediately following will be the premiere of the documentary *Humboldt Park: Raíces de Resistencia* produced by Televisa/Univision Chicago in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. **To purchase tickets for the talk, please visit [mcachicago.org](https://mcachicago.org) or call (312) 280-2660.**

**nibia pastrana santiago with Eduardo F. Rosario | *el agua era el Cielo***

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Saturday, August 19 | 1–5 pm

nibia pastrana santiago, in collaboration with Eduardo F. Rosario, presents a four-hour choreographic event where movement and sound improvisation are the spearhead for reflections on near and far landscapes. The title for this performance, *el agua era el cielo* [The Water was the Sky], is taken from the 1957 poem “Recreaciones Panorámicas” by Juan Antonio Corretjer. Tickets are included with museum admission.

**Pastries by Chef Natalia Boa Rosario**

The Counter at Marisol

August 19, 2023–May 5, 2024

Chef Natalia Boa Rosario, winner of Season 1 of *Ciao House* on Food Network, will be serving limited-edition pastries inspired by *entre horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico*. Starting on opening day, guests can purchase a Coconut Pistachio Parcha Financier—a pistachio cake with candied emperor coconut, passionfruit, pistachio butter, and coquito glaze—as well as Guava and Queso Kataifi, which includes shredded filo stuffed with guava paste and cheese, topped with saffron honey, cardamom, and white chocolate rose petals.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*entre horizontes* will be presented in both Spanish and English, a part of the MCA’s transition into becoming a fully bilingual institution. Through this initiative, the museum aims to offer unprecedented access for visitors through Spanish and English content, including gallery didactics, website content, wayfinding, signage, captioning for programming, on-site Spanish-speaking visitor services associates, and more.

Lead support is provided by the Harris Family Foundation in memory of Bette and Neison Harris, Zell Family Foundation, Cari and Michael Sacks, the Mellon Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Major support is provided by the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation and Jana and Bernardo Hees.

Generous support is provided by Marilyn and Larry Fields.



This exhibition is part of Art Design Chicago, a citywide collaboration initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art that highlights the city's artistic heritage and creative communities.



## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO**

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The MCA interweaves exhibitions, performances, collections, and educational programs while providing a place for audiences to contemplate and discuss contemporary art in pursuit of a creative and diverse future. The MCA believes in the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) as a platform to enact structural change. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue and is open 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday to Sunday and Tuesdays (free for IL residents) from 10 am to 9 pm. The museum is closed on Mondays. Suggested general admission of \$15 for adults and \$8 for seniors. Admission is free for all youth 18 and under, members of the military and veterans, and MCA members. Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at [mcachicago.org](http://mcachicago.org) or at 312.280.2660.