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Performance view, cat mahari: *blk ark: the impossible manifestation*, Culture Hub, New York City, November 18, 2022. Photo: Livia Sá, courtesy of Culture Hub.

Multimedia material:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/if6meknauss2ybh87miuy/AFk8nVNmlzq_m-7vTliD5dU?rlkey=9e6xu5mx6zrczf6ansausuk4&st=td2mz5y1&dl=0

MCA Chicago Announces Fall 2024 Exhibitions and Programming

CHICAGO— Today the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago announces its upcoming Fall 2024 exhibition and programming schedule. The season includes the opening of the major fourth-floor exhibition [*The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020*](#), as well as notable upcoming events such as the third annual [*Chicago Performs series*](#), a new season of [*Family Day*](#), a performance by [*Edgar Arceneaux*](#), and roundtable talks on current exhibitions [*Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection*](#) and [*Chicago Works | Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons*](#).

Chicago Performs

[Lykanthea | *Some Viscera*](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Sep 26–27, 2024 | 7:30 pm

Led by Lakshmi Ramgopal, Lykanthea is a multidisciplinary collective whose performances and installations use pop idioms to experiment with traditional South Asian art forms. *Some Viscera* is their latest work—a live concert of song and movement, featuring an immersive stage design that transforms the MCA Stage into a lush garden. In addition to Ramgopal, the project features an ensemble starring Asha Rowland, Erica Miller, Johanna Brock, and Ben Zucker. Together, they integrate elements of Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam dance, and Sanskrit and Tamil poetry into a performance of rich, intimate dance theater.

Lykanthea performed at the MCA's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2017, and presented an early iteration of *Some Viscera* through the MCA's [In Progress](#) series in 2019.

[Every house has a door and Essi Kausalainen | *Broken Aquarium*](#)

Anne & John Kern Terrace Garden

Sep 28 | 2:00 pm

Sep 29 | 4:00 pm

Broken Aquarium takes its cue from Camille Saint-Saëns's 1886 musical suite for children *The Carnival of the Animals*. Riffing on the famed *Aquarium* movement of the musical suite, this performance contemporizes Saint-Saëns's work, depicting an impossible ecosystem of endangered or extinct sea creatures. Featuring handmade costumes by Essi Kausalainen and live music by Tim Kinsella and Jenny Polus, this performance uses poetry, sound, and movement to question what it means to be human. The performance will take place outside on the MCA's Anne & John Kern Terrace Garden. Guests will be able to experience the performance from the lawn's center steps as well as from atop the terrace.

[cat mahari | *blk ark: the impossible manifestation*](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Sep 28, 2024 | 7:30 pm

Sep 29, 2024 | 2:00 pm

cat mahari's *blk ark: the impossible manifestation* is an interactive performance with live, semi-improvisational sound elements that draw from hip-hop, house, dance, and film. Exploring improvisational and Black cultural strategies of play—drawn from traditions such as *joanin'* (Atlanta slang for ritualized insult exchanges, otherwise known as The Dozens) and the soul clap—mahari's performance explores modes of survival and liberation and questions what it will take to reach radical freedom in our collective future.

In 2022, cat mahari presented this project at the MCA as an [In Progress program](#). The project was developed with the support of the [New Works Initiative](#) Chicago Commission Program, which fosters the artistic and professional growth of Chicago artists, providing consistent and comprehensive support for their development.

Tickets for Chicago Performs are on sale now. To purchase tickets, visit experience.mcachicago.org/packages or call 312-397-4010.

Major 4th Floor Exhibitions

[*The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020*](#)

Nov 9, 2024–Apr 13, 2025

The claim that painting is dead has been a common refrain among critics for decades. Nevertheless, artists have continuously pushed the medium forward. *The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020* surveys the arc of painting over the last fifty years, highlighting it as a mode of artistic expression in a constant state of renewal and rebirth.

This international and intergenerational group exhibition presents the work of more than forty artists who have redefined painting using emerging technologies, imaging techniques, and their own bodies. Examining the impact that computers, cameras, and television, as well as social media and automation, have had on the medium, *The Living End* positions painting itself as a manual “technology” that has shifted further away from the immediacy of the artist’s hand over the past fifty years. The subsequent conceptual shift has led artists to challenge what constitutes a painting, how they are produced, and who (or what) can be considered a painter.

Employing a range of mediums beyond painting, such as video, sculpture, installation, and performance, the featured artists subvert longstanding traditions and mythologies of painting—and the notion of the painter as singular genius—to offer a vital portrait of a medium that is still being reinvented.

The Living End is curated by Jamillah James, Manilow Senior Curator, with Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

Project and Collections Exhibitions

[*Chicago Works | Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons*](#)

Aug 3, 2024–Feb 2, 2024

Andrea Carlson (Grand Portage Ojibwe/European descent, b. 1979; lives and works in northern Minnesota and Chicago, IL) considers how landscapes are shaped by history, relationships, and power. Her artworks imagine places that are “everywhere and nowhere,” visualizing these shifting yet ever-present dynamics. Grounded in Anishinaabe understandings of space and time, the works in this exhibition reflect on how land holds memories of colonial expansion and violence, as well as Indigenous presence and resistance.

Across painting, video, and sculpture, Carlson organizes imagined landscapes around one constant: the horizon. This line is reminiscent of her homelands on Lake Superior. It is also a significant art historical trope that artists have employed to depict territories as vast and vacant, ripe for the taking. Carlson’s prismatic works are not empty: they are densely layered with an abundance of motifs, making reference to the tactics of colonialism as well as her family and peers, Ojibwe culture, and Indigenous sovereignty. Confronting ongoing histories of erasure and dispossession, Carlson proposes that what appears to be lost can be remade, reimagined, or otherwise regained.

Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons is curated by Iris Colburn, Curatorial Associate.

Events

[Visionary: Celebrating Leadership in the Arts](#)

The Four Seasons Hotel
120 E Delaware Place
Oct 7, 2024, 11 am–1 pm

Join us for a dynamic and in-depth conversation between artist Sarah Sze and the MCA's Pritzker Director Madeleine Grynsztejn, and the presentation of the 2024 Arts Philanthropy Awards honoring BMO Bank N.A. for its support of arts education in Chicago, with Darrel Hackett, President and Chief Executive Officer, accepting the award on behalf of the bank. The 2024 Arts Philanthropy Awards also honor Darrel Hackett and MCA Trustee Nickol Hackett for their generous philanthropy in Chicago.

King Harris, the event cochair, is pleased to partner with the MCA's Women's Board to support and host this gathering.

Screening | The D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift

The Commons
Oct 15, 2024, 6–9 pm

This short documentary reveals the motivations behind the [D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift](#), a remarkable body of over 100 artworks gifted jointly to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Featuring behind-the-scenes interviews and works by some of the most influential artists of the postwar period, the documentary explains how the joint donation initiates an innovative collaboration between the two museums, facilitating a close exchange of curatorial ideas and technical knowledge. Directed by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

[Live Arts | Lit & Luz](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater
Nov 2, 2024, 7–9 pm

Experience the Live Magazine Show, the signature celebration of the Lit & Luz Festival of Language, Literature, and Art. Each year, Lit & Luz supports the creation of new collaborative art between writers, visual artists, and musicians from Chicago and Mexico. The theme of the 2024–25 festival is "Saturation/Saturación," and will feature works in both Spanish and English. Presenting artists include Ana Gallardo, Fabiola Torres-Alzaga, Alberto Aguilar, Dianna Frid, Faisal Mohyuddin, Diego Báez, Clio Mendoza, and Javier Peñalos.

[Screening | Visual AIDS Day With\(out\) Art](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater
Dec 1, 2024, 2–3:30 pm

For Day With(out) Art 2024, Visual AIDS presents *Red Reminds Me...*, a program of seven videos that explore the emotional spectrum of living with HIV today. Through the red ribbon and other visuals, HIV and AIDS has long been associated with red and its connotations—blood, pain, tragedy, and anger. By examining these associations, *Red Reminds Me...* invites viewers to consider the complex range of images and feelings surrounding HIV.

[Teen Creative Agency | Zine Fest 2024](#)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Dec 14, 2024, 11 am–3 pm

The MCA's [Teen Creative Agency \(TCA\)](#) is celebrating thirteen years (and counting) of DIY publications by teens! This event showcases the original artwork, activism, and social practice of Chicago-area youth in zine form. Visitors are invited to participate in activities organized by the TCA, such as zine making and on-site merch giveaways.

Performances

[Edgar Arceneaux | *Until, Until, Until...*](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Oct 17–19, 2024 | 7:30 pm

Until, Until, Until..., which won the Best of Show Award at the 2015 Performa Biannual in New York City, is a performance by multidisciplinary artist Edgar Arceneaux that reenacts a controversial performance by Ben Vereen to question the truth of past narratives.

Arceneaux's work is based on Vereen's two-part performance at Ronald Reagan's 1981 inaugural ball, which consisted of a song and dance in blackface as a tribute to Bert Williams, followed by the artist removing the makeup. This performance functioned as a poignant, clever, and harrowing commentary on the exploitation of black creatives—however, though the first half was broadcast on television, the latter half of the performance was never aired, and thus, Vereen's original intent was lost. More than forty years later, Arceneaux takes the second half of Vereen's performance as the basis for an examination of history, truth, and who wields the power to determine reality.

[Live Arts | Joseph Lefthand](#)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Oct 22, 2024, 6 pm

Chicago-based performance artist Joseph Lefthand will present a site-specific performance that explores new modes of public mourning and repair. Descended from the Cheyenne-Arapaho, Taos, and Zuni tribes, as well as American settlers, Lefthand uses intuitive choreography, fashion, and public display to imagine reconciliation between communities and the undoing of social harm. Following the performance, there will be a Q&A session with the artist.

Talks

[Talk | Gordon Hall and B. Ingrid Olson](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Oct 5, 2–3:30 pm

Inspired by current MCA exhibition [Descending the Staircase](#), Chicago-based artist B. Ingrid Olson joins Gordon Hall, artist and founder of the Center for Experimental Lectures, for a performance, lecture, and debate on the use of the phrase “the body” in art historical rhetoric and discourse. The performance focuses on how these artists distort, abbreviate, and obscure bodies in their sculptural, photographic, and movement-based works. Hall's 2020 essay “Why I Don't Talk About 'The Body': A Polemic” functions as the departing point for a live debate responding to issues surrounding visibility and difference in how viewers engage with artists' work.

This talk is organized by Mariana Fernández, visiting curator, as part of the MCA DNA Research Initiative, which invites a new generation of curators and writers to trace threads that live within the MCA's holdings of approximately 3,300 objects, and to produce essays, videos, and programs related to their research. The MCA DNA Research Initiative is supported by the Chanel Culture Fund.

[Politics of Poetics | Heid E. Erdrich and Andrea Carlson](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater and Center for Native Futures

Oct 26, 2024, 2–3:30 pm | Talk

Oct 26, 2024, 5–6:30 pm | Workshop

A series of readings and workshops, *Politics of Poetics* highlights influential contemporary poets whose practices of writing, teaching, and activism engage with the political. This fall, poet Heid E. Erdrich will read new works and selections from her award-winning book of poetry, *Little Big Bully* (2020), and *Curator of Ephemera at the New Museum of Archaic Media* (2017). Following the reading, Erdrich will be joined in conversation with artist Andrea Carlson, featured artist of [Chicago Works | Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons](#), whose work is featured on the cover of *Little Big Bully*. Later, Erdrich will give an intimate poetry workshop at the Center for Native Futures. Registration required.

[The Living End Artist Roundtable | Tishan Hsu, Tala Madani, and Jacolby Satterwhite, moderated by Jamillah James](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Nov 10, 2024, 2–3:30 pm

On the occasion of the opening of [The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020](#)—an exhibition which surveys the last 50 years of this oft-disputed, medium-in-motion—three of the featured artists will join Jamillah James, Manilow Senior Curator and organizer of the exhibition, for a conversation about the past, present, and future of painting.

[Talk | On Techno and Art: Robert Hood and Arthur Jafa, moderated by DeForrest Brown Jr.](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Dec 7, 2024, 2–3:30 pm | Talk

Dec 7–8, 2024, 10 pm–4 am | Saturday (Performance) | smartbar

Join us for an enthralling conversation between renowned artist Arthur Jafa and acclaimed techno pioneer Robert Hood, who created the soundtrack for Jafa's *APEX* (2013), now on view at the MCA. These artistic powerhouses will discuss the social, aesthetic, and technological relationships between the genre of techno and what Jafa calls “a cinema capable of matching the power, beauty, and alienation of Black music.” This conversation will be moderated by DeForrest Brown Jr., musician, author of *Assembling a Black Counter Culture* (Primary Information, 2022), and representative of the “Make Techno Black Again” campaign.

That evening, the MCA partners with smartbar to present a full DJ set by Robert Hood.

[Talk | Lee Quiñones and Dao-Yi Chow, moderated by Romi Crawford](#)

Edlis Neeson Theater

Nov 12, 2024, 6–7:30 pm

For the Chicago launch of his first monograph, *Lee Quiñones: Fifty Years of New York Graffiti Art and Beyond*, street art luminary Lee Quiñones is joined on stage by recent collaborator Dao-Yi Chow, streetwear designer and Creative Director of New Era. The talk is moderated by Romi Crawford, Chicago-based art historian and co-author of *The Wall of Respect: Public Art and Black Liberation in 1960s Chicago*.

Family Day Series

[Family Day | Patterns and Portals](#)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Oct 12, 2024, 11 am–3 pm

Explore patterns, portals, and possibilities! This month, take inspiration from [Virginia Jaramillo: Principle of Equivalence](#) to find the magic in color, line, and composition with guest artists Keny De La Peña and Sishi Wang.

[Family Day | Screen Time](#)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Nov 9, 2024, 11 am–3 pm

Join us on the opening weekend of [The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020](#), for digital artmaking activities inspired by the exhibition and led by guest artists Niema Qureshi and Norman Long.

[Family Day | Zines!](#)

Dec 14, 2024, 11 am–3 pm

Hosted in collaboration with the MCA's Teen Creative Agency, December's Family Day invites you to make, read, and share zines (small, do-it-yourself magazines).

Member Events

Member Open House

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Sept 20, 2024, 5–9 pm

Join us for the first member open house in ten years. Come celebrate our current exhibitions and preview the upcoming season ahead, featuring last-chance viewing hours for [Nicole Eisenman: What Happened](#), extended access to our exhibitions, and more.

[Members' Preview | The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020](#)

Griffin Galleries of Contemporary Art
Nov 8, 2024, 7–9 pm

MCA Members always enjoy first-look access to the MCA's newest exhibitions alongside curators, artists, and fellow art enthusiasts. At this Members' Preview for [The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies](#), 1970–2020, attendees enjoy cocktails and complimentary hors d'oeuvres while being among the first to view the MCA's newest exhibition. This event is only open to MCA Members. Join or renew today!

[Members' Holiday Party](#)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Dec 12, 2024, 6–9 pm

Get a head start on your holiday shopping at the MCA's second Members-only holiday party! Join other [MCA Members](#) for an evening of shopping and revelry while enjoying double discounts of 20% on all purchases, as well as festive refreshments and after-hours gallery access.

Education

[Educator Workshop | Care Practices through Artistic Lineages](#)

The Commons

Sept 21, 2024, 10 am–12 pm

In the second session of this two-part series, educators are invited to research creative traditions from their personal, familial, and political histories; to discuss how these practices can relate to care and wellbeing; and to create art inspired by the remembrance these stories. This workshop affirms the leadership of BIPOC, queer, and disabled communities who preserve their legacies of care work through art.

Learning Series: The Creative Classroom and Post Quarantine Gaps 1 & 2

Crown Family Room

[Part 1 | Oct 5, 2024, 10 am–12 pm](#)

[Part 2 | Nov 16, 2024, 10 am–12 pm](#)

Over the past four years, curriculum shifts, teacher shortages, and gaps in student development have all greatly impacted the educational landscape. Dr. E'Toyare Williams will introduce teachers to Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) theory and collaborate with arts educator Carrie Carlson to offer creative strategies to better serve students of today.

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. 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 or at 312.280.2660.



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