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Nicole Eisenman (b. 1965, Verdun, France; lives in Brooklyn, NY), *Beer Garden with A.K.*, 2009. Oil on canvas; 65 × 82 in. (165.1 × 208.3 cm). De Ying Foundation. Photo: Bryan Conley, courtesy Carnegie Museum of Art.

Multimedia Material:

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MCA Chicago Announces Exhibitions and Performances for 2024 Season

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago today announces its 2024 exhibition preview.

Major Exhibitions

Faith Ringgold: American People

November 18, 2023–February 25, 2024

Griffin Galleries of Contemporary Art

Faith Ringgold (b. 1930, Harlem, NY; lives in Englewood, NJ) stands as one of the most groundbreaking cultural figures of her generation, touting a six-decade career as an artist, author, educator, and organizer.

Faith Ringgold: American People is a major retrospective that presents the artist's impactful vision on the complexities of race and gender in the United States.

Originally organized by the New Museum in New York, the MCA's presentation of [*Faith Ringgold: American People*](#) will exhibit many of her best-known works—including paintings, quilts, and sculptures—as well as spotlight archival materials from her activism in the late 1960s and 1970s. This retrospective examines Ringgold's art as it evolved in response to political and social change in the United States, including the artist's indelible works of the civil rights era, her radical explorations of gender and racial identity, and her focus on collective struggles for social justice and equity. Supported in part by the MCA's Women Artists Initiative, this timely exhibition provides a new opportunity to experience the art of an American icon.

To celebrate [*Faith Ringgold: American People*](#), the MCA Store will feature merchandise by and about the artist, such as the exhibition catalogue, books by Ringgold, and puzzles.

The MCAs presentation of [*Faith Ringgold: American People*](#) is curated by Jamillah James, Manilow Senior Curator, with Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator. The exhibition was originally organized by the New Museum, New York, and curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Edlis Neeson Artistic Director, and Gary Carrion-Murayari, Kraus Family Curator, with Madeline Weisburg, Curatorial Assistant.

Nicole Eisenman: What Happened

April 9, 2024–September 22, 2024

Griffin Galleries of Contemporary Art

Nicole Eisenman (b. 1965, Verdun, France; lives in Brooklyn, NY) rose to prominence in the early 1990s New York art scene. Eisenman explores political, economic, and social themes through her formally experimental and often-humorous portraits of daily life. Within Eisenman's paintings, drawings, and sculptures, audiences will recognize an array of visual references such as Renaissance paintings, 1930s socialist murals, and underground comics.

Through over 100 works dating back to 1992, *Nicole Eisenman: What Happened* addresses sociopolitical topics from the past three decades that remain biting relevant today. Eisenman's work focuses on deeply intimate issues of community, romantic relationships, and representation through a wide variety of materials and forms. As the only US venue for the exhibition, the MCA's presentation allows audiences the unique opportunity to experience how Eisenman has addressed these topics through her constantly evolving approach to art making.

Nicole Eisenman: What Happened is organized by Museum Brandhorst and Whitechapel Gallery, London, and curated by Monika Bayer-Wermuth and Mark Godfrey. The MCA's presentation is curated by Jadine Collingwood, Associate Curator, and Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

Project and Collections Exhibitions

[*Descending the Staircase*](#)

December 16, 2023–August 18, 2024

3rd and 4th floor stairwell galleries

Drawn from the MCA's collection, [*Descending the Staircase*](#) considers novel artistic approaches to representing the human body. Spread across two floors of the museum, visitors are invited to descend into the realms of the uncanny, fantastical, dreamy, and gestural. The exhibition explores figures of all kinds, from the fragmented, abject, and surreal to the curated, self-aware, and media savvy. [*Descending the Staircase*](#) features four sections—mind, object, form, and action—that each delve into different questions about the human body in the contemporary world.

This immersive exhibition brings together new works and old favorites, revealing ongoing conversations among past and present artists. [Descending the Staircase](#) also celebrates the MCA's participation in these conversations as an institution that has collected groundbreaking work and supported contemporary artists for over fifty years. This will be the first exhibition by the MCA to feature works from the [D. Daskalopoulos Collection Gift](#), a collection featuring 100 extraordinary works gifted by MCA Trustee Dimitris Daskalopoulos and jointly held between the MCA and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Descending the Staircase is curated by Jadine Collingwood, Associate Curator, and Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

Virginia Jaramillo: Principle of Equivalence

May 4, 2024–January 5, 2025

Bergman Galleries

Virginia Jaramillo: Principle of Equivalence is the first major retrospective and largest monographic exhibition to date of the work of Virginia Jaramillo (b. 1939, El Paso, TX; lives in Hampton Bays, NY). Tracing the artist's practice from the mid-1960s through the present, *Principle of Equivalence* features over forty abstract paintings and handmade paper works that reveal her longstanding preoccupation with the relationships between the earthly and metaphysical realms. The MCA's presentation expands on these ideas with a focus on Jaramillo's interest in time—expressed through references to cosmogony, memories of cracked earth, and archaic ruins.

Taking shape in New York and Los Angeles of the 1960s and 1970s—amid mass political movements and debates around representation and the relevance of painting—Jaramillo's work has long engaged with abstraction's formal and social potentials. Alongside her iconic *Curvilinear* series, the exhibition features works made during her decades-long collaboration with the Dieu Donn  Papermill in New York, as well as recent paintings in which Jaramillo redoubles her interests in quantum physics and the passage of time. Together, these works reach for the fundamentals of comprehension: how our experience of the physical forms the basis of ideas, and how abstraction can offer alternate ways of understanding our world.

Virginia Jaramillo: Principle of Equivalence was originally organized by the Kemper Art Museum, Kansas City, Missouri, and curated by Erin Dziedzic, Director of Curatorial Affairs. The MCA's presentation is organized by Ren  Morales, James W. Alsdorf Chief Curator, and Iris Colburn, Curatorial Associate.

Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection

June 1, 2024–May 11, 2025

Neil and Fischel Galleries

Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection surveys Arthur Jafa's (b. 1960, Tupelo, MS; lives in Los Angeles, CA) artistic practice over roughly the last decade through a selection of artworks held in the MCA's collection, including his videos *APEX* (2013), *Love Is The Message, The Message Is Death* (2016), *The White Album* (2018), and *akingdoncomethas* (2018). Accompanying the videos are a few key sculptural and photographic works that further underscore Jafa's unique approach to visual culture and image making, in which the lines between popular and high culture blur and the personal collides with the political.

Through his multidisciplinary work, Jafa seeks to encompass what he describes as “the full complexity, specificity, beauty, and potentiality of what Black folks have made and continue to make out of the bleak existential circumstance we've attended to over the past several hundred years.”

Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection is organized by Ren  Morales, James W. Alsdorf Chief Curator, and Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

[Chicago Works: Maryam Taghavi](#) [مریم تقوی](#)
December 20, 2023–July 14, 2024
Turner Gallery

For the next iteration of the [Chicago Works](#) series, the MCA presents the first museum solo exhibition of artist Maryam Taghavi (b. Tehran, Iran; lives in Chicago, IL).

Taghavi’s work with talismans, calligraphy, and the Islamic occult has coalesced into a series of sculptures and paintings that strive to signify the unseen. In this upcoming exhibition, Taghavi creates new works that expand her interest in perception by interrogating the space between the illusive vanishing point of the horizon and the immutability of distance. Taghavi’s exhibition will take over the MCA’s Turner Gallery, culminating in an immersive installation that invites audiences to close one eye and peer with the other, to adjust their gaze to new spatial possibilities, and to imagine a relationship with the imperceptible.

Maryam Taghavi is the twenty-first artist to be part of this solo exhibition series at the MCA that features artists who are shaping the contemporary art scene both in Chicago and beyond. [Chicago Works: Maryam Taghavi](#) [مریم تقوی](#) will be the first MCA exhibition to be fully translated into Persian.

[Chicago Works: Maryam Taghavi](#) [مریم تقوی](#) is organized by Bana Kattan, Pamela Alper Associate Curator, with Kamala GhaneaBassiri, Visual Arts Intern.

Performance

Resonance

March 28, 2024–May 12, 2024
The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Each spring the MCA presents a suite of performances that are shaped by a rigorous curatorial theme reflecting our contemporary moment. The 2024 series focuses on the concept of *Resonance* and features works by four artists who explore the physicality of sound and voice: Anna Martine Whitehead, Samita Sinha, Laura Ortman, and 7NMS | Marjani Forté-Saunders and Everett Saunders.

Resonance is organized by Tara Aisha Willis, Former Curator in Performance, with Laura Paige Kyber, Curatorial Associate.

Resonance Programming

Anna Martine Whitehead
FORCE! An opera in three acts
March 28–30, 7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

FORCE! is a sprawling, surrealist opera from artist Anna Martine Whitehead that blends experimental dance with the sounds of gospel, folk, pop, and contemporary experimental jazz. Opening upon a group of Black women and femmes as they realize they must enter a prison to escape the rapidly deteriorating society outside, *FORCE!* uses silence, sound, and rhythm to question who truly has control over how their time is spent.

Samita Sinha
Tremor
April 18–20, 7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Tremor, artist and composer Samita Sinha’s latest performance work, is born from Sinha’s practice of decomposing, distilling, and transforming Indian vocal traditions through the body, employing sound as a vessel that harnesses and liberates energy through one’s body. Performed in relationship to a live sonic environment created by composer Ash Fure, and within a set designed by architect Sunil Bald, Sinha is joined on stage each night by a rotating cast of sound- and movement-based collaborators.

Live Music: Laura Ortman
April 26–27, 7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Laura Ortman, violinist and composer, performs at the MCA for two evenings of live, multimedia concerts. Ortman’s performances are informed by her practice as a sculptor and installation artist; she uses this background to bridge the gap between music and fine art, describing her approach to music as “sculpting sound.” Performed in the MCA’s Edlis Neeson Theater, Ortman’s original music is presented alongside her video works, and is in response to Chicago’s historic and contemporary Indigenous communities.

7NMS | Marjani Forté-Saunders and Everett Saunders
Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist
May 9–11, 7:30 pm and May 12, 2:30pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist is a multigenre, coming-of-age story following a lyricist and emcee developed by 7NMS, a collaboration between artists Marjani Forté-Saunders and Everett Saunders. Illuminating the distinctive practices, systems, philosophies, and political ideologies that have shaped hip-hop’s emcees and lyricists, *Prophet* immerses audiences in a world of courage, self-determination, and devotion in an offering to radical Black expression.

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. or at 312.280.2660.



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