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MOBY DICK; or, The Whale (2022), directed by Wu Tsang, produced by Schauspielhaus Zürich. © Design Pics Inc / Alamy Stock Footage.

Multimedia Material:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/nmhto2r3mzoeqel34tnt6/h?rlkey=z2f7w8ijtnsjwa6nqi8gavtvo&dl=0>

MCA Chicago Announces Programming for 2024 Season

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago today announces its 2024 winter and spring programming schedule. Notable upcoming events include [Wu Tsang's *MOBY DICK; or, The Whale*](#), programs centered on the exhibition [Faith Ringgold: American People](#), and the [Resonance performance series](#). The 2024 winter and spring season also includes the continuation of the [Learning Series](#) and a talk series titled [Chotin': Curatorial Practices at the Edge](#) done in collaboration with MoMa PS1 and MAC Panamá.

Live Arts

[Live Arts | Wu Tsang: *MOBY DICK; or, The Whale*](#)

February 14, 2024 | 7–9 pm

February 15-16, 2024 | 7–8:30 pm

Edlis Neeson Theater

Accompanied by a live score performed by the Chicago Sinfonietta, *MOBY DICK; or, The Whale* is a predominantly silent, feature-length film by award-winning filmmaker and visual artist Wu Tsang in collaboration with composers Caroline Shaw and Andrew Yee with Asma Maroof.

This adaptation of Herman Melville's great American novel, written by Sophia Al Maria and directed by Tsang, follows the titular white whale above and below the surface of the water, developing a visual cosmology that resists the exploration and exploitation of the earth under imperial colonialism. Tsang's approach pairs the classic story of the whaler's "floating factory" with the beginnings of the film industry. *MOBY DICK; or, The Whale* was shot entirely on a soundstage, combining silent-era filmmaking techniques with a virtual reality game engine that projects immersive, oceanic visuals. Exploring overlapping histories of industrialism, extractivism, colonialism, and ecological and spiritual crisis, the film creates a multilayered, surreal filmic adaptation of the 1851 novel.

The MCA's presentation of *MOBY DICK; or, The Whale* is organized by Nolan Jimbo, Assistant Curator.

Screenings

[The Sojourner Truth Film Festival](#)

February 3, 2024 | 10:30 am–5 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

In 1976, Faith Ringgold and a group of Black feminist artists co-organized the first-ever Black women's film festival: the Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts. In celebration of the festival's 2023 edition and Ringgold's major retrospective, [Faith Ringgold: American People](#), join the MCA for an all-day screening of rarely shown films by and about Black women.

CART captioning is provided for all screenings.

Talks

[Roundtable on Faith Ringgold](#)

January 30, 2024 | 6–7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Join the MCA for a conversation on how [Faith Ringgold's](#) aesthetic and political practices continue to reverberate across generations of artists. This roundtable features artists Jamal Cyrus and Amanda Williams—an [MCA Chicago Works artist](#) in 2017—with the MCA presentation curator of [Faith Ringgold: American People](#), MCA Manilow Senior Curator Jamillah James.

English/Spanish CART and ASL are provided.

[Seminar | Chotin': Curatorial Practices at the Edge](#)

February 16, 2024 | 1–6 pm
Arts Club of Chicago

Chotin': Curatorial Practices at the Edge is the third iteration of a three-part, cross-institutional collaboration between the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, [MAC Panamá](#), and [MoMA PS1](#).

This seminar invites local, regional, and international curators to reflect on how curatorial practices emerging from the Latin American and Caribbean contexts challenge western canonical structures of art and act as methodological interventions. The seminar also situates Chicago as a transcultural crossroads for the Americas in the Midwest, reorienting and decentralizing conversations about migration, exchange, memory, and global history.

This event is organized by Carla Acevedo-Yates, Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator, and Cecilia González Godino, Marjorie Susman Curatorial Fellow, in collaboration with Juan Canela, MAC Panamá, and Elena Ketelsen González, MoMA PS1.

Talk | Gerardo Mosquera

February 17, 2024 | 11 am–12:30pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

At this keynote address, Gerardo Mosquera, one of today's leading curators, will conclude the Chicago iteration of the new, collaborative project between the MCA, MAC Panamá, and MoMA PS1. *Chotin': Curatorial Practices at the Edge* will bring together a diverse set of international voices, culminating with Mosquera, to focus on the specific issues embedded in curatorial practices from the Caribbean and Latin America.

Talk | Beatriz Santiago Muñoz

March 19, 2024 | 6–7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Join the MCA for a conversation with artist Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, who discusses her politically poignant films and videos that use enactment, improvisation, and sensorial approaches to engage otherwise inaccessible histories. Santiago Muñoz's work is currently on view as part of [*entre horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico*](#).

ASL, CART, and Spanish language captioning and audio are provided.

Talk and Screening | David Lamelas: This Is My Place

April 3, 2024 | 6–8 pm
Gene Siskel Film Center

This Is My Place is a fictional “documentary” about the itinerant life and conceptual artwork of artist David Lamelas, whose sculpture *Situaciónn de cuatro placas de aluminio (Four Changeable Plaques)* (1966), is currently on view in MCA Assistant Curator Nolan Jimbo's current exhibition [*Endless*](#). Commissioned by the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), the film features Lamelas interviewed by MCA Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator Carla Acevedo-Yates. Lamelas reflects on a life defined by migration between cultures and countries, and how those experiences shaped his artistic practice, which for decades has centered explorations of time and place.

Lamelas will speak with *Endless* curator Nolan Jimbo after the screening.

ASL interpretation is provided for this event.

Talk | Politics of Poetics: CAConrad

April 9, 2024 | 6–7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Join the MCA for a reading with poet CAConrad in celebration of the new series *Politics of Poetics*.

ASL and CART captioning are provided.

Talk | Access Praxis: Ariella Granados

April 30, 2024 | 6–8 pm
The Commons

Access Praxis is an annual collaboration between Bodies of Work and the MCA that puts ideas

around disability culture and access into action. This iteration features interdisciplinary Chicago-based artist Ariella Granados, whose work draws on advertising, telenovelas, and other media to portray her lived experience as an artist who is disabled and bicultural. Granados will engage in conversation on a custom-built set made for the event.

Performance

[In Progress | Micah Schippa: Negative Ecstasies](#)

February 24, 2024 | 10 am–5 pm

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Negative Ecstasies is a composition for six vocalists by Chicago-based artist Micah Schippa. The work is built around motifs of labor, capitalism, and despair. Configured in response to the interior floor plan of the MCA, the score is based on the history and architecture of Chicago's Midland Building ("the Great Central Market"), the poetry of Foxconn factory worker Xu Lizhi, and the historical labor songs of coal miners. Schippa's performance will take place periodically during the museum's regular hours (10 am–5 pm) and across its public spaces, including the restrooms, stairwells, elevators, the Kovler Atrium, and the fourth-floor lobby.

This performance is part of the museum's *In Progress* series and is organized by Iris Colburn, Curatorial Associate, and Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

[Resonance](#)

March 28–May 11, 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, *Resonance*, features works by four artists who explore the physicality of sound and voice. Together, their performances invite audiences to consider sound as a force for greater understanding, compassion, and change.

Resonance is organized by Tara Aisha Willis, former Curator in Performance, with Laura Paige Kyber, Assistant Curator for Performance.

Resonance Programming

Anna Martine Whitehead

[FORCE! An opera in three acts](#)

March 28–30 | 7:30 pm

Edlis Neeson Theater

To introduce her work *FORCE!*, Anna Martine Whitehead writes, "This is an opera, but what is an opera? If opera is defined simply as 'big work,' what could be blacker?" *FORCE!* features a live band that blends gospel, folk, pop, and jazz, with experimental dance, song, and spoken word. Set in a prison waiting room, Whitehead's sprawling opera explores how people occupy, move through, and make sound in these spaces. As the performers manifest the free worlds of which they dream on stage, their voices resound with collective power. A meditation on often-ignored carceral spaces, *FORCE!* uses silence, sound, and rhythm to build a shared experience of joy and solidarity between performers and audience members.

Samita Sinha

Tremor

April 18–20 | 7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

In *Tremor*, artist and composer Samita Sinha explores what she describes as “the practice of attuning oneself to the raw material of vibration and its emergence in space, as well as unfolding the possibilities that arise from encounters between this sonic material and other individuals.” *Tremor* is born from Sinha’s practice of ^[OBJ]decomposing^[OBJ], distilling, and transforming Indian vocal traditions through the body, employing sound as a vessel that harnesses and liberates energy through oneself. In *Tremor*, Sinha asks how we might become more attuned to life through our sense of vibration, despite the numbing and distorting effects of coloniality and modernity. How can our voices be vessels to repair the fabric of our interconnection and open generative possibilities? How can we relearn to listen?

Tremor was co-commissioned by Western Front (Vancouver, CA) and Danspace Project (New York).

Laura Ortman

Smoke Rings Shimmers Endless Blur

April 26–27 | 7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

Renowned composer and multi-instrumentalist Laura Ortman performs two evenings of live, solo, multimedia concerts where Ortman’s original music is presented alongside her video work. Informed by her practice as a sculptor and installation artist, Ortman bridges the gap between music and fine art in her performances, describing her musical approach as “sculpting sound.” An accomplished violinist, her work encompasses a variety of textures and atmospheres created with the classical violin, Apache violin, effects pedals, piano, guitar, and voice.

7NMS | Marjani Forté-Saunders and Everett Saunders

Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist

May 9–11 | 7:30 pm
Edlis Neeson Theater

A multi-genre storytelling project about the life journey of a lyricist, *Prophet: The Order of the Lyricist* illuminates the distinctive practices, systems, philosophies, and political ideologies that have shaped hip-hop’s emcees. Combining craft, prose, oration, and exposé, the work presents the coming-of-age story of an emcee, immersing audiences in a world of courage, self-determination, and devotion. Using text, sound, film, and performance, *Prophet* stands as a critical offering to scholarly, civic, and ancient bodies of radical Black expression.

The Learning Series

Throughout the year, the MCA hosts high-quality professional development programming, open to teachers of all subjects, grade levels, and disciplines. These events provide educator-specific, skills-based training on contemporary art integration. Programs are designed in connection with the cultural assets of the MCA and the needs of Chicago-area educators. In keeping with addressing issues of relevance, the 2023–24 Learning Series is a four-part series exploring “The Impact of Food Apartheid in Education.”

The term “apartheid” is used here as it acknowledges the existence of economic and racial segregation systems. And as history has shown us, apartheid systems can be dismantled through

collective action. This event is free for teachers with registration. ASL is available upon request.

[Learning Series | The Impact of Food Apartheid in Education Part 2](#)

March 2, 2024 | 10–11:30 am
Crown Family Room

This session will explore potential models of food justice, as practiced educators, parents, and community activists identify ways in which art can bring attention to and find solutions to food insecurity.

[Learning Series | The Impact of Food Apartheid in Education Part 3](#)

April 27, 2024 | 10–11:30 am
Crown Family Room

Session three will focus on supplying teachers with the resources, connections, and confidence needed to positively transform their community's foodscape through art and collaboration.

[Learning Series | The Impact of Food Apartheid in Education Part 4](#)

May 25, 2024 | 10–11:30 am
Crown Family Room

The final session in the series will be a review of previous sessions and content.

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 the MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at mcachicago.org, or call at 312.280.2660.

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