

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Julie Curtis, *La Machine*, 2020. Oil and vinyl on canvas; 48 3/16 × 60 1/16 in. (122.4 × 152.6 cm).  
Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Tony Salame, Aishti Foundation - Beirut, Lebanon  
and Elie Khouri - Elie Khouri Art Foundation, Dubai UAE, 2021.7

**Multimedia Material:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/mywqxn172vt1zb73qdn1z/h?rlkey=4fdnfc9ttho4pctc26mo1m3&dl=0>

**MCA Chicago announces *Descending the Staircase***

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA) announces today the exhibition, opening on December 16, 2023 and running through August 25, 2024. Drawn from the MCA Collection, *Descending the Staircase* considers novel artistic approaches to representing the human body. Using the MCA's iconic helix staircase as a central axis, the exhibition spreads across the third and fourth floor of the museum, inviting visitors to descend into realms of the uncanny and fantastical. 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 through the lens of the contemporary art world.

This exhibition brings together new works and old favorites—including mixed media, photographs, sculpture, and an automaton—revealing ongoing conversations among past and present artists. [\*Descending the Staircase\*](#) also celebrates the MCA's active participation in these conversations as an institution that has collected and supported groundbreaking work by contemporary artists for nearly sixty years. Artists featured include Marcel Duchamp, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Rashid Johnson, and Robert Gober, among others.

This will be the MCA's first exhibition to feature select works from two recent major gifts: the [\*D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift \(2022\)\*](#), a collection featuring 100 extraordinary works from the D.Daskalopoulos Collection, gifted and jointly held between the MCA and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Marilyn and Larry Fields Gift, a donation of 79 works from Chicago-based collectors Marilyn and Larry Fields (2023) which significantly expands the scope of the MCA's collection.

[\*Descending the Staircase\*](#) is curated by Jadine Collingwood, Associate Curator, and Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

## **SUPPORT**

Lead support is provided by the Pritzker Traubert Collection Exhibition Fund, Cari and Michael Sacks, and Zell Family Foundation.

## **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](http://mcachicago.org) or at 312.280.2660.

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