

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2024

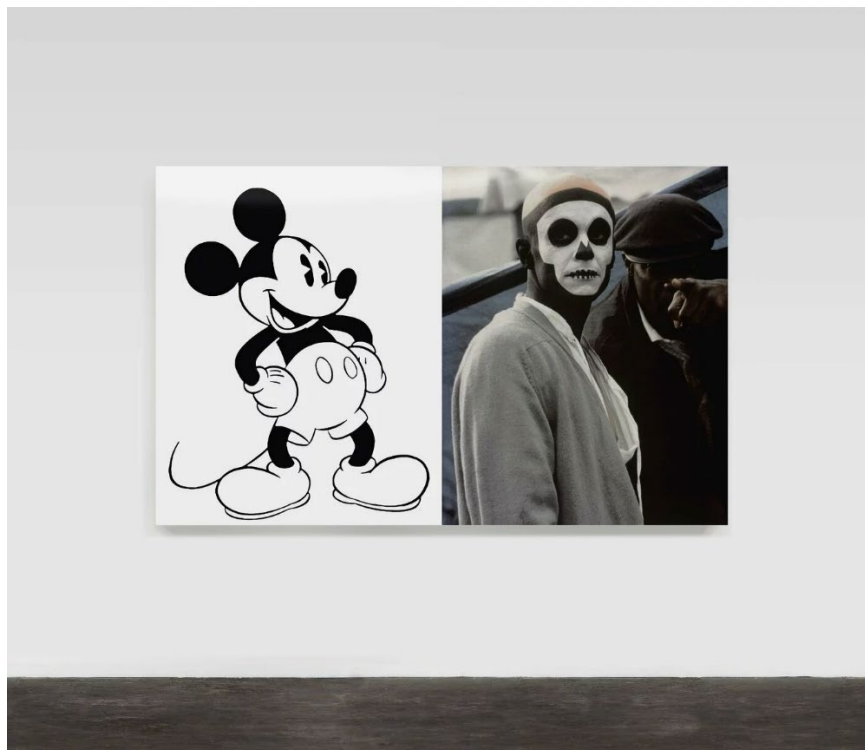
MEDIA CONTACT:

Manuel Venegas

mvenegas@mcachicago.org

Saadia Pervaiz

sypervaiz@mcachicago.org



Arthur Jafa, *Mickey Mouse was a Scorpio*, 2017. Chromogenic print mounted on aluminum; 52 × 83 in. (132.1 × 210.8 cm). Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Gift of Marilyn and Larry Fields, 2023.61. Photo: Fredrik Nilsen.

Multimedia Material:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/kfze3cool8x2dbx7kzhh5/h?rlkey=el2019gqdxz346map5p5x4e7d&dl=0>

MCA Chicago announces *Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection*

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago today announced the upcoming exhibition [*Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection*](#). Opening on June 1, 2024, and running through March 2, 2025, in the Neil and Fischel Galleries on the museum’s second floor, the exhibition pulls from the MCA collection, which holds one of the largest collections of Jafa’s work, to create a survey of his artistic practice over roughly the last ten years.

This immersive exhibit features four video works, linked together by connecting corridors, that envelope the viewer in the broad range of Jafa’s references, subjects, and themes. The exhibition explores Jafa’s use of found imagery, music, and artistic techniques such as montage and collage to construct videos, sculptures, and photographic works that are layered and arranged in ways that reveal the diverse and complex realities of Black being. Jafa’s multidisciplinary work 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 contains a selection of artworks held in the MCA’s collection, including the videos *APEX* (2013), *Love Is The Message, The Message Is Death* (2016)—last seen in the MCA’s 2019 exhibition [Prisoner of Love](#)—and *The White Album* (2018), and *Akingdoncomethas* (2018). Accompanying the videos are 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.

[Arthur Jafa: Works from the MCA Collection](#) is organized by René Morales, James W. Alsdorf Chief Curator, and Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

SUPPORT

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

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Arthur Jafa (b. 1960, Tupelo, MS; lives in Los Angeles, CA) is an artist and filmmaker. Jafa’s films have garnered acclaim at the Los Angeles, New York, and Black Star Film Festivals, and his artwork is represented in celebrated collections worldwide, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Tate, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, the High Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Luma Foundation, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, among others.

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, or by calling 312.280.2660.

MCA
CHIC
AGO

[facebook.com/mcachicago](https://www.facebook.com/mcachicago)

X: @mcachicago

IG: @mcachicago