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Andrea Carlson, *Perpetual Genre*, 2024. Oil, acrylic, gouache, ink, color pencil, and graphite on paper; overall: 45.5 × 61 in. (115.6 × 154.9 cm). Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Block Board of Advisors Endowment Fund purchase, 2024.2a-d. © Andrea Carlson. Courtesy of the artist and Bockley Gallery.

Multimedia material: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/nnt1ck45mydty8fkn0ta7/AJFVG-AyS92TPTWohbjG-oY?rlkey=fcahvsy5tjww0tja5wx9kd5ne&st=qjtv0klo&dl=0>

MCA Chicago announces *Chicago Works* | *Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons*

CHICAGO—The MCA is pleased to announce [Chicago Works | Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons](#), the artist's first solo museum exhibition in Chicago. This exhibition is part of [Chicago Works](#), an exhibition series at the MCA that features artists shaping the contemporary art scene in the city and beyond. Opening on August 3, 2024, and running through February 2, 2025,

Chicago Works | Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons is presented in the MCA's fourth floor Turner Gallery.

Andrea Carlson (b. 1979, Ojibwe/European descent; based 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 histories of erasure and dispossession, Carlson proposes that what appears to be lost can be remade, reimagined, or otherwise regained.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the artist is adapting her print *Exit* (2019) into the form of multiple billboards. *Exit* features the earthwork known as Man Mound, which is one of thousands of Indigenous structures and burial sites that have been fractured, flattened, or otherwise destroyed by highways crossing through the Midwest and beyond. Originally conceived of as “a sigil for those who travel on I-94,” *Exit* will be realized as a billboard at multiple sites on the roads between Chicago and Minneapolis—including near Man Mound—so it can be observed by travelers on the same infrastructure that continues to cut across the landscape, including these mounds. [Please inquire with the Media Relations team for more information.](#)

This exhibition is curated by Iris Colburn, Curatorial Associate.

In celebration of the exhibition opening on August 3, 2024, Andrea Carlson will join the exhibition curator, Curatorial Associate Iris Colburn, in conversation at the MCA Commons from 2 – 3:30 pm

SUPPORT

Lead support is provided by R. H. Defares and the Zell Family Foundation.

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Additional support is provided by D. Elizabeth Price and Lou Yecies.

This exhibition is supported by the MCA's Women Artists Initiative, a philanthropic commitment to further equity across gender lines and promote the work and ideas of women artists.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

ANDREA CARLSON (b. 1979, Ojibwe/European descent; based in northern Minnesota and Chicago, IL) is an artist based in northern Minnesota and Chicago. Carlson's work includes multimedia artworks, works on paper, and public art projects, including a billboard project at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2021. Recently, Carlson participated in the Toronto Biennial, completed a residency at the Joan Mitchell Center, and was selected as part of *Prospect.6*, an upcoming triennial organized by Prospect New Orleans. Carlson received a 2021 Chicago Artadia Award, a 2022 United States Artists Fellowship, and a 2024 Creative Capital Award. The artist's writing has appeared in books such as *Indigenous Futurisms* (IAIA Museum of Contemporary Indian Arts, 2020) and *Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: Memory Map* (Whitney Museum of American Art, 2023), as well as in online publications such as *e-flux Architecture*. Carlson is a co-founder of the Center for Native Futures, an art space dedicated to the work of Native artists in Chicago.

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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