

UPDATED
December 2, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

Manuel Venegas

mvenegas@mcachicago.org

Saadia Pervaiz

sypervaiz@mcachicago.org



Avery Singer, *The Studio Visit*, 2012. Acrylic on canvas; 72 × 96 × 1 3/4 in. (182.9 × 243.8 × 4.4 cm). Private collection. © Avery Singer. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth. Photo: Roman März.

Multimedia material:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4tkjdc2oq6nwp897c6k5s/AI88UAzH6TzCO73Fg8jr5UE?rlkey=k2bn3giv22jvi23xddxrawdfb&dl=0>

MCA Chicago's *The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies*, 1970–2020 to open November 9.

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago's latest exhibition, [*The Living End: Painting and Other Technologies, 1970–2020*](#), will open on November 9, 2024, and run through March 16, 2025, in the Griffin Galleries of Contemporary Art. This international, intergenerational group show dissects the claim that painting is dead. Although this phrase has been a common refrain among critics for decades, artists have nonetheless continuously pushed the medium forward. The exhibition examines the different methods artists have used to challenge or intervene in the practice of painting and the role of painters over the past fifty years, suggesting that painting remains in a constant state of renewal and rebirth.

The Living End considers the impact of various representational technologies and production

methods—such as the use of video and still cameras; computers, the internet, and screens; automation; and the performing body—on the act of painting. Comprising of works on canvas, performance, and video, the exhibition examines the ways artists working across media have challenged our understanding of what constitutes a painting, how they can be produced, and who can be considered a painter. *The Living End* emphasizes a critical reading of painting, its tropes, its prominence in the Western canon, and its historical associations with privilege.

The exhibition surveys the early role of computers in painting and image production—following experiments with computer-assisted graphics in the mid-1960s—and connects to the prevalence of screens and artists mining online digital and social media culture today. *The Living End* also examines the cyclical relationship between still photography and painting, as well as how artists working in performance have used video and photography to critique vaunted status of painting and the idea of the painter as singular genius. Lastly, the exhibition looks toward the automation of painting, where the artist's hand is largely absent, complicating the role of artist as producer and the market's enduring interest in painting as commodity. *The Living End* assembles a body of work that reflects the progression of not only technology and time, but the field of painting itself.

Over 60 artists will be featured in the exhibition, including Cory Arcangel, Gina Beavers, Cheryl Donegan, Charles Gaines, Paul McCarthy, Laura Owens, Avery Singer, and Andy Warhol, among others.

On November 10, 2024, at 2 pm, curator Jamillah James will moderate a roundtable of participating artists, which includes Tishan Hsu, Tala Madani, and Jacolby Satterwhite.

The Living End is curated by Jamillah James, Manilow Senior Curator, with Jack Schneider, Assistant Curator.

SUPPORT

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

Major support is provided by Northern Trust, Charlotte R. Cramer Wagner and Herbert S. Wagner III of Wagner Foundation, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Generous support is provided by Sandra and Jack Guthman.

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.



NORTHERN
TRUST



WAGNER FOUNDATION



Andy Warhol

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

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.



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

IG: [@mcachicago](https://www.instagram.com/mcachicago)

X: [@mcachicago](https://twitter.com/mcachicago)