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supakid (b. 1985, Bayamón, Puerto Rico; lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico), *Untitled (Ricky Renuncia)*, 2019. Digital photograph. Courtesy of the artist.

Multimedia material: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/gg89mnrx80ww1z3uygssi/AGHj-CA458JGlfSVLOPyQSE?rlkey=y3j8pso6tq4qg7z7h1fx8zm76&st=ifhb68jg&dl=0>

MCA Chicago announces *Dancing the Revolution: From Dancehall to Reggaetón*, opening April 14, 2026

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is thrilled to share that *Dancing the Revolution: From Dancehall to Reggaetón*, a fourth-floor exhibition announced earlier this week in the museum's 2026 preview, will be opening April 14, 2026, and be on view through September 20, 2026. This exhibition is the first of its kind to explore and expand the visual, political, and spiritual histories of dancehall and reggaetón through contemporary art—two dynamic genres that have transcended their grassroots origins to shape global culture. From Kingston to San Juan through London, Toronto, New York City, and Panama, *Dancing the Revolution* positions music and dance as a revolutionary practice for collective liberation rooted in the struggle against colonial oppression.

Dancehall and reggaetón are not only musical genres but cultural practices and powerful expressions of resistance and joy—reminders of the Caribbean's centuries-old traditions of dance and music as means of liberation and protest rooted in Black Atlantic history and culture. *Dancing the Revolution* showcases pivotal moments and themes from these histories, starting with the sound system—a mobile disco that embodies both a community experience and a vital civic institution.

Presenting work across varied mediums, *Dancing the Revolution* includes painting, sound sculptures, installations, photographs, and video, showcasing how artists have been and continue to be inspired by these histories and the visual forms that emerge from them. The exhibition features more than 35 artists, including Isaac Julien, Jean Michel Basquiat, Edra Soto, Alberta Whittle, Carolina Caycedo, supakid, and Lee "Scratch" Perry. A special commissioned mixtape project invites visitors to learn about the evolution of these popular genres in Panama and hear iconic songs that have paved the way for the global phenomenon of reggaetón. Audiences also will be able to purchase the exhibition's bilingual catalogue (Spanish/English), which features scholarship on topics such as sound system and sonic aesthetics in painting, dancing and protest during Puerto Rico's *Verano del 19*, or Summer of 2019, and Panama's reggae en español, as well as extensive illustrations reproducing exhibition artworks.

Dancing the Revolution considers music and dance as powerful tools for sexual and political liberation. The exhibition's title is inspired by the shifting RPMs (revolutions per minute) that mark the tempo and history of Caribbean popular music, including historic events like Verano del 19 (which famously included protests attended by singers iLe, Residente, Ricky Martin, and Bad Bunny). At this critical moment of collective action, LGBTQ+ and feminist activists led *perreo combativo*, or "combative twerking," on the steps of San Juan Cathedral prior to Governor Ricardo Roselló's resignation, transforming reggaetón's characteristic dance into a form of political protest. This reclamation of public space through dance—an act deeply rooted in dancehall history and culture—demonstrates how music and dance can serve as bold acts of collective resistance and emancipation.

Dancing the Revolution: From Dancehall to Reggaetón is curated by Carla Acevedo-Yates, former Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator and Director of Curatorial Initiatives, with Iris Colburn, Curatorial Associate, Nolan Jimbo, Assistant Curator, Cecilia González Godino, former Marjorie Susman Curatorial Fellow, and nibia pastrana santiago, Curatorial Consultant.

SUPPORT

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Learning programs for *Dancing the Revolution: From Dancehall to Reggaetón* are generously supported by SCHOOL MUSEUM FUND The Hees Family.



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. 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](#) is open 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday to Sunday and Tuesdays from 10 am to 9 pm. Tuesday evenings (5-9 pm) are free for Illinois residents. The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission is free for all youth 18 and under, members of the military and veterans, and MCA members. Free admission for anyone 18 and under is generously provided by the Lefkofsky Free Under 18 Fund. Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at mcachicago.org or [312.280.2660](tel:3122802660).



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