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Melanie McLain, *Peripersonal*, 2020. *OTRXS MUNDXS*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, 2020–21. Courtesy of the artist.

Multimedia material:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/lnn3gm5u8v6k1h47tkm3g/AKYRr6STuEVyKtMbQ2XNbVU?rlkey=f81msjqfapt6eza84pq9vf9mc&st=isaucjmh&dl=0>

MCA Chicago announces *Slow Dance*, opening September 2026

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is excited to announce *Slow Dance*, a performance-focused exhibition presented in the Sylvia Neil and Daniel Fischel Galleries on the MCA's second floor starting September 12, 2026.

Slow Dance approaches performance in two registers: as an artistic medium rooted in the live presence of bodies and as an economic imperative characterized by the pervasive demand for productivity, speed, and efficiency. Artists in the exhibition use performance to explore forms of slowness that resist this demand. Through gestures of

suspension, hesitation, and inaction, they investigate the politics of the body's labor and maintenance.

Featuring works by Brendan Fernandes, Gordon Hall, Geumhyung Jeong, Carolyn Lazard, Melanie McLain, and Cally Spooner, *Slow Dance* presents painting, sculpture, and video in addition to live performance. These artists focus on how bodies wear away and how they endure, while also contending with the near constant obligation to perform in labor markets, the protracted economies of waiting, and fatigue's latent potential as a form of resistance. While exploring conditions of failure, breakdown, or exhaustion, *Slow Dance*'s performers model new modes of reciprocity, intimacy, and connection that challenge the weathering effects of our contemporary imperative to perform. The exhibition will include in-gallery performance activations throughout the run of the show.

Slow Dance is organized by Jadine Collingwood, Pamela Alper Associate Curator, with Korina Hernandez, Curatorial Assistant.

SUPPORT

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

Major support is provided by Charlotte R. Cramer Wagner and Herbert S. Wagner III of Wagner Foundation.

Generous support is provided by the Margot and W. George Greig Ascendant Artist Fund.

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.

Wagner 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. 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 Lefkowsky Free 18 & Under Fund. Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at mcachicago.org or [312.280.2660](tel:312.280.2660).



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