

# Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art

Since the 1930s, many artists have used the simple act of sharing food and drink to advance aesthetic goals and to foster critical engagement with the culture of their moment. These artist-orchestrated meals can offer a radical form of hospitality that punctures everyday experience, using the meal as a means to shift perceptions and spark encounters that aren't always possible in a fast-moving and segmented society.

Organized by the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art, *Feast* surveys these practices for the first time through a presentation within the Museum and a series of new commissions in public spaces. The exhibition introduces new artists and contextualizes their work in relation to other influential artists, from the Italian Futurists and Gordon Matta-Clark to Marina Abramović and Rirkrit Tiravanija.

## JOIN THE FEAST



Discover first hand the ways in which artists use shared experiences with food and drink to spur new ways of thinking about our world. As part of *Feast*, the Smart will present an array of participatory projects, meals, and salons that take place within the Smart Museum and across Chicago. Highlights include five ritual soul food dinners and performances with Theaster Gates

at Dorchester Projects, Michael Rakowitz's roving *Enemy Kitchen (Food Truck)*, and a series of one-on-one dinners with artist Lee Mingwei, held after-hours within a sculptural installation at the Smart.

For certain events, guests will be chosen in advance via lottery. To enter the drawing and to learn more about these and other participatory projects, visit [smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/join-the-feast](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/join-the-feast).

## ARTISTS

*Feast* includes art, documentary materials, and new public projects by Marina Abramović and Ulay, Sonja Alhäuser, Mary Ellen Carroll, Fallen Fruit, Theaster Gates, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, InCUBATE, the Italian Futurists, Mella Jaarsma, Alison Knowles, Suzanne Lacy, Lee Mingwei, Laura Letinsky, Tom Marioni, Gordon Matta-Clark, Mildred's Lane, Julio César Morales and Max La Rivière-Hedrick, motiroti, National Bitter Melon Council, Ana Prvacki, Sudsiri Pui-Ock, Michael Rakowitz, Ayman Ramadan, Red76, David Robbins, Allen Ruppersberg, Bonnie Sherk, Barbara T. Smith, Daniel Spoerri, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and others.

## RELATED PROGRAMS

Unless noted, all programs are free and open to the public and take place at the Smart Museum of Art. For more information, visit [smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/calendar](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/calendar) or call 773.702.0200.

### Wednesday, February 15, 6-7:30 p.m.

#### Exclusive Preview

Smart supporters are invited to an exclusive preview of *Feast* featuring a catering performance by Sonja Alhäuser and the chance to drink beer with artist Tom Marioni.

*The exclusive preview is by invitation only. To RSVP, please contact [smartRSVP@uchicago.edu](mailto:smartRSVP@uchicago.edu) or call 773.702.2368 by February 1.*

### Wednesday, February 15, 7:30-9 p.m.

#### Opening Reception

Celebrate the public opening of *Feast*. The evening features a performance by Theaster Gates and the Black Monks of Mississippi and the debut of Michael Rakowitz's *Enemy Kitchen (Food Truck)*.

### Thursday, February 16, 6 p.m.

#### Marina Abramović: A Lecture on Performance and its Future

First United Methodist Church at the Unity Temple  
77 West Washington Street

Marina Abramović gives a lecture on performance, reflecting on this provocative art form and her own influential work, including *Communist Body/Fascist Body* on view in *Feast*.

*Presented in collaboration with the Chicago Humanities Festival.*

*\$15 / \$10 Smart Partners and CHF members. Tickets available at [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org).*

### Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m.

#### Concert: A Feast of Songs

Listen to songs about food, drink, and feasting by classical composers from J. S. Bach to George Gershwin and Lee Hoiby.

*Presented in collaboration with the University of Chicago Department of Music.*

### Thursday, March 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art

As part of artist Tom Marioni's famed salon, drink free beer with guest bartenders Anthony Hirschel, Dana Feitler Director of the Smart Museum of Art, and Madeleine Grynstejn, Pritzker Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

*Must be 21 or older.*

### Saturday, March 3, 1-4 p.m.

#### Family Day: Sharing is Caring

Share your creative talent during an afternoon of collaborative art activities inspired by *Feast*.

*All materials provided. Best for children 4-12, accompanied by an adult.*

### Thursday, April 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art

Drink free beer with Chicago hip-hop group BBU.

*Must be 21 or older.*

### Friday, April 13, noon-3 p.m.

#### Teacher Workshop: Lessons Learned Around the Table

A potluck-style workshop for teachers interested in introducing themes of hospitality into the classroom. Featuring a talk by artist Laura Letinsky.

*CPDUs available. Open to teachers of all disciplines. Space is limited.*

*Please register in advance.\**

### Thursday, May 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art

Drink free beer with a guest bartender.

*Must be 21 or older.*

### Friday and Saturday, May 4-5

#### Symposium: Of Hospitality

Looking back to the ancient Greek origins of "symposium," this event brings the life of the mind together with the life of the body. The weekend includes talks, performances, discussion, food, and drink, with *Feast* and philosopher Jacques Derrida's classic text "Of Hospitality" as the key points of departure.

*Space is limited. Please register in advance.\**

### Thursday, May 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### Sketching at the Smart

Sketch from a banquet of food that you later get to eat. University of Chicago MFA student Anna Elise Johnson leads the drawing exercises.

*All materials provided. All skill levels welcome.*

### Friday, May 25, noon

#### Lunch-hour Talk: "Feasts in the Ancient World"

Archaeologist Geoff Emberling discusses feasting traditions in ancient Mesopotamia and explores connections to the culture of the Middle East today.

*Space is limited. Please register in advance.\**

### Sunday, June 3, 2 p.m.

#### Curator Tour

Curator Stephanie Smith leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the exhibition.

### Thursday, June 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art

Drink free beer with Chicago theater collective The Neo-Futurists.

*Must be 21 or older.*

### Sunday, June 10, 2-4 p.m.

#### Ice Cream Social

A closing-day party featuring special ice cream cakes designed by artist David Robbins that update and celebrate the American tradition of the ice cream social.

*\*Register for lectures, workshops, and the symposium at [smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/calendar/register](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/calendar/register).*



## EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

*Feast* will be accompanied by a publication that is part exhibition catalogue, part critical reader. Published by The New Press, it will be available in summer 2012.

*Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art* is curated by Stephanie Smith, Smart Museum Deputy Director and Chief Curator.

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**INSET** Lee Mingwei, *The Dining Project*, 1998, documentary photo of performance at the Whitney Museum of Art. Courtesy of the artist and Lombard-Freid Projects.

**COVER** Mella Jaarsma, *I Eat You Eat Me*, 2002, Photographic documentation of a performance in Jakarta, Indonesia. Courtesy of the artist.

**REVERSE** Bonnie Sherik, *Public Lunch*, 1971, Photographic documentation of performance at the San Francisco Zoo. Courtesy of the artist.