

MacArthur Fellows featured in fall exhibitions across Chicago

New *Toward Common Cause* initiatives feature work by MacArthur Fellows **Ida Applebroog**, **Wendy Ewald**, **Guillermo Gómez-Peña**, **Kerry James Marshall**, and **Amalia Mesa-Bains**



CHICAGO—A final wave of exhibitions marking the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program opens across the city this fall, presented in conjunction with *Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40*. This expansive, multi-venue project is organized by the **Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago** in collaboration with more than two dozen exhibition, programmatic, and research partner organizations across Chicago, including **BBF Family Services**, **Centro Romero**, **Jane Addams Hull-House Museum**, **National Museum of Mexican Art**, UChicago's **Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society**, and **Weinberg/Newton Gallery**. *Toward Common Cause* culminates with new commissions, residencies, and community-based projects by MacArthur Fellows **Wendy Ewald**, **Guillermo Gómez-Peña**, **Kerry James Marshall**, and **Amalia Mesa-Bains**, as well as a rarely exhibited installation from **Ida Applebroog**.

Toward Common Cause explores the extent to which certain resources—air, land, water, and even culture—can be held in common and marks the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program. Raising questions about inclusion, exclusion,

ownership, and rights of access, the exhibition considers art's vital role in society as a call to vigilance, a way to bear witness, and a potential act of resistance. The fall suite of projects joins others extending back to May 2021, featuring 29 MacArthur Fellows in all. The full list of participating artists and other details are available online at the exhibition website: towardcommoncause.org.

The exhibition is curated by **Abigail Winograd**, MacArthur Fellows Program Fortieth Anniversary Exhibition Curator, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago.

SCHEDULE OF FALL EXHIBITIONS

Hours of operation and reservation policies vary by location, please confirm with each venue prior to visiting.

Gómez-Peña's Casa Museo: A Living Museum and Archive

September 9, 2021–May 29, 2022

Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, 800 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60607

By reservation only. Open Tuesday–Friday and Sunday 9 am–5 pm.

For *Toward Common Cause*, pioneering conceptual-performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña takes up residence in Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. *Gómez-Peña's Casa Museo* features video and audio from the archives as well as new performance videos developed collaboratively with Gómez-Peña and core members of his performance troupe, La Pocha Nostra. Through sound, image and text, Gómez-Peña and La Pocha Nostra inhabit Jane Addams' office, the original Hull-House library, Jane Addams' bedroom, and other spaces throughout the Hull home. During its seventy-four-year history, Hull-House Settlement was home to nearly one hundred Residents—advocates, doctors, scientists, writers, and artists—who lived on the upper floors of the settlement. The Residents and their immigrant and migrant neighbors worked toward, what Jane Addams called, the common good. In residency at Hull-House, Gómez-Peña and La Pocha Nostra present a borderless world where geographic, municipal, gender and other borders are dismantled to allow public institutions to reflect and serve all publics.

Amalia Mesa-Bains: Circle of Ancestors

Featured in *Día de Muertos – A Time to Grieve & Remember*

September 10–December 12, 2021

National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th Street Chicago, Illinois 60608

No reservations required. Open Tuesday–Sunday 10 am–5 pm.

Annually, the National Museum of Mexican Art holds a *Día de muertos*, or Day of the Dead, exhibition. The 35th iteration of the *Día de muertos* exhibition includes installations, altars, paintings, and prints that span from more traditional to innovative means to celebrate those who have passed through this living cultural practice.

Commissioned for *Toward Common Cause* and featured in the exhibition is *Circle of Ancestors* by the artist, curator, and scholar, Amalia Mesa-Bains. This installation is dedicated to the artist's mother, Marina Cornejo Gonzalez Mesa's family and honors the many contributions they and other Mexican families have brought to the building of Chicago. In addition to *Circle of Ancestors*, this exhibition also features an *ofrenda* by the MacArthur Fellow, poet, essayist, and performer, Sandra Cisneros, as well as other works of art from the growing National Museum of Mexican Art permanent collection, which is inclusive of local artists and artists from both sides of the border.

Toward Common Cause: Wendy Ewald and Amalia Mesa-Bains

September 24–December 18, 2021

Weinberg/Newton Gallery, 688 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

By reservation only. Open Wednesday 2–6 pm; Thursday & Friday 1–5 pm; and Saturday: 12–4 pm.

Among the pressing issues addressed in *Toward Common Cause* are immigration, migration, and human rights. At Weinberg/Newton, Wendy Ewald and Amalia Mesa-Bains contribute complementary projects that focus on Latinx migration in Chicago. Ewald presents a series of photographs and a film made in Chiapas, Mexico in 1991 alongside a newly commissioned project that explores the pandemic and personal challenges facing refugees and immigrants from Latin America, created in collaboration with youth at Centro Romero with teaching artists from the Smart Museum and Diane Dammeyer Initiative. Mesa-Bains presents *Dos Mundos*, a personal and historical meditation on migration to Chicago through the lens of her own family that makes visible the countless vital contributions the Mexican community has made to the building of Chicago.

Kerry James Marshall: Untitled (Circulation)

September 29–ongoing

BBF Family Services, 1512 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623

Open Monday–Friday, 10 am–2 pm. Groups of more than 6 people must call to make arrangements at 773.542.7300.

Untitled (Circulation) is a new work by Kerry James Marshall designed specifically for the architecture of the BBF Family Services building. The work is composed of photographs taken by the artist over the past four decades of the Bud Billiken Parade, the largest African American event of its kind in the United States. The parade is a Chicago tradition, begun in 1929, that takes place annually on the city's South Side. The procession begins in Bronzeville on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and ends in Washington Park. Bud Billiken, its mascot, is a symbol of good luck and a guardian of children. Marshall juxtaposes his photos with found images from various disciplines including astronomy, architecture, engineering, biology, chemistry, and medicine. Together, they are a celebration of Black joy and the unlimited avenues for achievement.

Ida Applebroog: Monalisa**October 14, 2021–January 28, 2022**

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, The University of Chicago, 5701 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637

By reservation only. Please contact gallery for current hours.

As part of *Toward Common Cause*, the Neubauer Collegium's gallery features an installation of *Monalisa* by Ida Applebroog. Living in Southern California in 1969, Applebroog sought refuge from her life as a single mother in her bathtub, where she spent between 2 and 3 hours an evening drawing pictures of her body. This ritual eventually resulted in 160 portraits of Applebroog's vagina. Packed away in 1974 and rediscovered in 2009, the drawings are installed as wallpaper on a wooden structure resembling a house.

Daily Life and Dreams in the Pandemic: A Project with the Centro Romero Youth Program**Fall 2021**

Centro Romero, 6216 N Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60660

Outdoor installation open to the public.

In the summers of 2020 and 2021, Centro Romero offered an arts program for youth focused on photography. Working with MacArthur Fellow Wendy Ewald and teaching artists from the Smart Museum and Diane Dammeyer Initiative, the students created photographs and writings that express their inner-lives, dreams, and concerns about contemporary immigration. The resulting collaborative photo-and-text works are presented in a storefront exhibition visible from the sidewalk at Centro Romero, a community-based organization on the northeast side of Chicago, and are also displayed as part of the *Toward Common Cause* exhibition at Weinberg/Newton Gallery.

OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

For additional information on these exhibition venues and other Toward Common Cause partner organizations, visit towardcommoncause.org/partners.

Jeffrey Gibson: Sweet Bitter Love**Through September 18, 2021**

Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610

No reservations required. Open Tuesday–Friday 10 am–4 pm and Saturday noon–4 pm.

New work by Jeffrey Gibson responds to representation of Indigenous people in cultural institutions

Whitfield Lovell: The Spell Suite
Through September 25, 2021

South Side Community Art Center, 3831 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60653
No reservations required. Open Tuesday–Saturday 12–4 pm.

Whitfield Lovell's poetic and intricately crafted tableaux pay tribute to the daily lives of anonymous African-Americans

Kara Walker: Presenting Negro Scenes Drawn Upon My Passage through the South and Reconfigured for the Benefit of Enlightened Audiences Wherever Such May Be Found, By Myself, Missus K.E.B. Walker, Colored
Through October 16, 2021

DuSable Museum of African American History, The Roundhouse, 740 E. 56th Place, Chicago, IL 60637

Reservations encouraged. Open Wednesday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm.

A signature black-silhouette installation from Kara Walker, presented in the round

Toward Common Cause: Mel Chin, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Fazal Sheikh
Through October 24, 2021

Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615

No reservations required. Open Monday 10 am–4:30 pm; Tuesday–Thursday 10 am–7 pm; Friday 10 am–4:30 pm; and Saturday 10 am–3 pm.

Works by Mel Chin, LaToya Ruby Frazier, and Fazal Sheikh address issues of environmental racism and the disproportionate impact of post-industrial pollution on communities of color

Carrie Mae Weems: A Land of Broken Dreams
Through December 12, 2021

Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, The University of Chicago, 915 E. 60th Street, Chicago 60637

Reservations encouraged. Open Thursday–Friday 1–8 pm; Saturday–Sunday 12–6pm.

Carrie Mae Weems reimagines the Black Panther Party's programs for young people in Chicago during the late 1960s and early 1970s

Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40

Through December 19, 2021

Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago, 5550 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637

Reservations encouraged. Open Thursday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm.

A group show considers how race and class shape our rural and urban geographies, featuring works by Mark Bradford, Nicole Eisenman, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Jeffrey Gibson, Alfredo Jaar, Toba Khedoori, Rick Lowe, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Julie Mehretu, Fazal Sheikh, and Xu Bing

Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40

Through December 19, 2021

Stony Island Arts Bank, 6760 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, IL 60649

No reservations required. Open Sunday 12–7 pm.

A group show reflects on identity and representation, featuring works by Dawoud Bey, Nicole Eisenman, David Hammons, Gary Hill, Whitfield Lovell, Kerry James Marshall, Trevor Paglen, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, Deborah Willis, and Fred Wilson.

Public murals by Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Through November 1, 2021

National Public Housing Museum, 1322 W Taylor Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607

Outdoor installation open to the public.

Works by Njideka Akunyili Crosby reproduced as large, public murals: *The Beautiful Ones, Series #9* and *Mother and Child*.

Alfredo Jaar: This Is Not America (A Logo for America)

Through January 29, 2022

School of the Art Institute of Chicago Galleries, 33 E. Washington Street, 60602

Outdoor installation open to the public.

Visible from the street, a sequence of projections which were originally displayed on a light board in Times Square, New York.

Public murals by Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Through summer 2022

Chicago Housing Authority, Minnie Riperton Apartments, 4250 S. Princeton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609

Outdoor installation open to the public.

Two collage-paintings by Njideka Akunyili Crosby reproduced as large-format murals on the building's façade: *I Still Face You* and *Home: Say It Loud*.

Mel Chin: Safehouse Temple Door

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle: Hydrant, 41°47'22.662" N – 87°37'38.364" W

Ongoing

Sweet Water Foundation, 5749 S. Perry Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60621

By reservation only. Tours available every Wednesday, 1–4 pm.

Site-specific installations from Mel Chin and Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle that confront environmental pollution and its disproportionate impact on disinvested communities.

Black Wall Street Journey

Ongoing

Multiple public art installations and programs

Rick Lowe's multifaceted city-wide project pays tribute to the building of Black

wealth, using public art to tell the stories from the journeys of Black communities in Chicago and beyond

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

For additional information on these exhibition venues and other Toward Common Cause partner organizations, visit towardcommoncause.org/partners.

BBF Family Services is a comprehensive human services organization that envisions a thriving, self-sustaining community where empowered children and families have access to all opportunities.

For over 35 years, **Centro Romero** has been a community-based organization that serves the refugee immigrant population on the northeast side of Chicago.

The **Jane Addams Hull-House Museum** draws upon the legacy of international peace activist, suffragist, and feminist, Jane Addams, and other social reformers who lived and worked alongside their immigrant neighbors to create social change on the Near West Side of Chicago.

The **National Museum of Mexican Art** is located in the Pilsen neighborhood, the heart of Chicago's Mexican Community, and is the first nationally accredited museum dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Mexican arts and culture.

The University of Chicago's **Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society** explores new possibilities for humanistic research by fostering an environment in which new forms of thinking emerge and thrive. Neubauer Collegium gallery exhibitions provide space for scholars, artists, practitioners, and the general public to engage with the arts in the context of collaborative research.

The **Smart Museum of Art** at the University of Chicago is a site for rigorous inquiry and exchange that encourages the examination of complex issues through the lens of art objects and artistic practice.

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is a non-commercial gallery with a mission to collaborate with nonprofit organizations and artists to educate and engage the public on social justice issues.

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Support

Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40 is organized by the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago in collaboration with exhibition, programmatic, and research partners across Chicago. It is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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Images

Ida Applebroog, *Monalisa*, 2009. Gampi, Mylar, ink, pigment, oil, watercolor, wood, and hardware, 110 x 144 x 146 in. (279.4 x 365.8 x 370.8 cm). Detail. © Applebroog Industries. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth.

Interior of Gomez-Pena's Casa Museo, S.F. by Robert Gomez Hernandez. Courtesy of Guillermo Gomez-Pena.

Zuli in collaboration with Wendy Ewald, *I will lift you up, once, twice, and many more times*, 2021, from *Daily Life and Dreams in the Pandemic: A Project with the Centro Romero Youth Program*.

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