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**THE MCA'S EIGHTH ANNUAL PREVIEW OF EXPO CHICAGO, VERNISSAGE, WELCOMES MORE THAN 8,000 ATTENDEES**

[MCA Chicago Women's Board Hosts EXPO CHICAGO's Opening Night Benefit at Navy Pier, Raising \\$265,000 for the Museum's Programming](#)

CHICAGO – **EXPO CHICAGO**, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, opened its eighth edition to more than 8,000 attendees at **Vernissage**, the opening night event benefiting the **Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago** and hosted by the organization's Women's Board. A vast crowd of the city's business, civic and cultural leaders, as well as artists, collectors and art professionals filled Navy Pier's Festival Hall Thursday, September 19 for a special preview of artwork from more than 135 of the world's leading galleries from 24 countries and 68 cities.

Notable attendees included **Naomi Beckwith, Anita Blanchard and Marty Nesbitt, Marlene Breslow Blitstein, Michelle Boone, Jacolyn Bucksbaum, Nick Cave and Bob Faust, Michael Darling, Dirk Denison and David Salkin, Lois and Steve Eisen, Marilyn and Larry Fields, Barbara Fosco and David Missner, David Frej and Nancy Lerner, Helyn Goldenberg and Michael Alper, Susan Goodman and Rod Lubeznik, Jack & Sandy Guthman, Caryn and King Harris, Richard and Beth Heller, Bill and Vicki Hood, Anne L. Kaplan, Barbara Bluhm-Kaul and Don Kaul, Mark Kelly and Tricia Needham, Liz Lefkofsky, Carol and Larry Levy, Eric and Cheryl McKissack, Bob and Nancy Mollers, Gladys Nilsson and Jim Nutt, Claire and Mike O'Grady, Biff Ruttenberg and Gwen Callans, Donna Stone, Mark and Robin Tebbe, Carl and Marilyn Thoma, Allen and Lynn Turner, Amanda Williams, Carla Acevedo-Yates, Helen Zell, and more.**

The celebration, co-chaired by MCA Women's Board members **Lori Crosley and Mary Kay Touhy**, began with the Patron Reception at 5 p.m. in the Northern Trust Anchor Lounge. The reception featured refreshments by some of Chicago's top restaurants and food providers including: 20E, Aster Hall, Big Star, Chicago Raw, Eli's Cheesecake, Hannah's Bretzel, Margeaux Brasserie, Marisol, Nude Dude Food, Pescadero and Tanta.

President | Director of EXPO CHICAGO **Tony Karman** opened the general reception at 6 p.m. by thanking the crowd for their incredible support for the eighth edition of the exposition. He paused to recognize the collaborative efforts of Chairman of the Chicago Architecture Biennial **Jack Guthman** and The City of Chicago Commissioner of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

## EXPO CHICAGO And The MCA's Vernissage Welcomes More Than 8,000 Guests

**Mark Kelly** for their overwhelming support of EXPO ART WEEK, which annually partners with the city's most prestigious institutions to feature select aligned programming, including museum exhibitions, gallery openings and more. He then called on Northern Trust Wealth Management Executive Vice President **Mac MacLellan** to speak to the dynamic partnership between Northern Trust, EXPO CHICAGO and the MCA Chicago.

"Northern Trust is thrilled to continue its partnership with EXPO CHICAGO, serving as the Presenting Sponsor for our seventh year in a row," said MacLellan. "We are deeply committed to the arts and its importance to the Chicago community, and the collaborative effort of these organizations has made the city a top destination for global art."

Karman then introduced Navy Pier's Chief Program and Civic Engagement Officer **Michelle T. Boone**, who welcomed everyone to Navy Pier, stating, "On behalf of Navy Pier, I can't tell you how much it means to us to have you in Festival Hall this evening celebrating the eighth edition of EXPO CHICAGO. We've worked very hard to make Navy Pier once again the People's Pier, and we're doing that through meaningful cultural programming and collaborations like our longstanding partnership with EXPO CHICAGO."

Karman welcomed to the stage MCA Chicago's Pritzker Director **Madeleine Grynsztejn** and Northern Trust Corp. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and MCA Chicago Board of Trustees Chair, **Michael O'Grady**. Grynsztejn shared, "Chicago is an incredible art ecosystem, with remarkable universities where artists can have jobs and stay, supportive collectors who collect their work, world-class museums who show their work, and hard-working galleries that cultivate their work. I look forward to this special event every year because it celebrates the vital philanthropic and collaborative spirit of the Chicago arts community. The quality, caliber, and joy of Vernissage would not be possible without the tireless support of the MCA Women's Board in partnership with EXPO CHICAGO and Northern Trust."

**O'Grady** concluded the remarks, stating, "Northern Trust has been a strong supporter of arts and culture since our founding in 1889. The MCA and EXPO CHICAGO play a vital role in the educational and economic well-being of Chicago, and we are privileged to be a part of this partnership."

A bottle of **Ruinart Champagne** was popped by Ruinart Champagne Business Development Director **Pat Mangan**, and all gathered together for a celebratory toast before making their way onto the show floor. Ruinart Champagne is a premiere sponsor of EXPO CHICAGO 2019.

### **About the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago**

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is one of the nation's largest multidisciplinary museums devoted to the art of our time. With an international reputation for groundbreaking exhibitions, the MCA presents the latest in cutting-edge, contemporary culture. The MCA features leading performers from around the globe in its 300-seat theater. Located near the historic Water Tower in the heart of downtown Chicago, the MCA features exhibition spaces, the restaurant Marisol with an interior designed by artist Chris Ofili, the Commons engagement space, a gift store, and a terraced sculpture garden with a view of Lake Michigan.

### **EXPO CHICAGO**

Opening the fall art season each September, **EXPO CHICAGO**, the International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art features leading international galleries alongside one of the highest quality platforms for contemporary art and culture. Hosted within Navy Pier's Festival Hall, EXPO CHICAGO's eighth edition takes place September 19 to 22, 2019, in alignment with the 2019

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Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 19, 2019 - January 5, 2020). EXPO CHICAGO presents a diverse program, including **Dialogues**, presented in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; **Exchange by Northern Trust: An Interactive Conversation Around the Art of Collecting**; unrivaled talks programs for both public and VIP audiences; **IN/SITU**, dynamic on-site installations highlighting large-scale sculpture, film, and site-specific work; and major public art initiatives, including **IN/SITU Outside**, public art installed throughout Chicago Park District locations; and **OVERRIDE**, a curated selection of international artists throughout the city's digital billboard network. The EXPO CHICAGO program also features an unprecedented commitment to host curatorial initiatives during the exposition, including the **Curatorial Forum** in partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI), and the **Curatorial Exchange**, which partners with foreign agencies and consulates to expand the exposition's global reach. EXPO CHICAGO is the publisher of **THE SEEN**, Chicago's only international journal of contemporary and modern art criticism, online and in print.

EXPO CHICAGO is presented by Art Expositions, LLC. Under the leadership of President and Director **Tony Karman**, EXPO CHICAGO draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while highlighting the region's contemporary arts community and inspiring its collector base. For more information on EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (September 16-22, 2019) visit [expochicago.com](http://expochicago.com).

### **Northern Trust**

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