

Media Contact:
Carly Leviton
Carol Fox and Associates
773.969.5034
carlyl@carolfoxassociates.com



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THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO'S VERNISSAGE
RETURNS TO OPENS SIXTH ANNUAL EXPO CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

The MCA Women's Board Hosts Exclusive First Look at Artwork Presented by 135
Leading International Galleries at Navy Pier's Festival Hall

CHICAGO - The Women's Board of the **Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago** is proud to announce the return of **Vernissage**, the opening-night benefit and preview of **EXPO CHICAGO**, the International Exposition of Modern & Contemporary Art Wednesday, September 13, 2017. Guests will be treated to an exclusive first look at art from 135 of the world's leading international galleries participating in the sixth annual exposition (Sept. 13 – 17) in Navy Pier's Festival Hall (600 E. Grand Ave.). Tickets for Vernissage (starting at \$100) and the VIP patron reception (starting at \$300) are on sale now and can be purchased at mcachicago.org/vernissage.

A French term for art openings, Vernissage, or 'varnishing day,' evokes the energy and excitement that surrounds the commencement of this major international art event— attracting more than 3,000 visitors to one of Chicago's most sought out and influential events of the year. Guests are invited to take in the beautiful sights of the lakefront before walking out onto the vast show floor for an exclusive look at more than 3,000 pieces of artwork from 25 countries and 58 cities. The Women's Board has partnered with EXPO CHICAGO to present Vernissage since the inception of the exposition six years ago. This year, the annual event comes at a particularly auspicious time, as the Women's Board is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017.

"Vernissage is an evening marked by infectious energy, the opportunity to see some of the best works of art from around the world, and a remarkable philanthropic spirit," said MCA Pritzker Director **Madeleine Grynsztejn**. "This year, as the MCA marks its 50th anniversary—and as our tremendous Women's Board celebrates its phenomenal legacy—we toast to EXPO CHICAGO and the incredibly vibrant Chicago arts community. Together as a city we all have established Chicago as an international capital of contemporary art."

This unique celebration, co-chaired by MCA Women's Board members **Tonya Geesman, Christine Poggianti** and **Ellen Wallace**, begins with a patron reception at 5 pm in the VIP Collector's Lounge, presented by Northern Trust (located on the main floor of Festival Hall), featuring food by some of Chicago's top restaurants and food providers including: 20E, Talbott Hotel, BellyQ, Chicago Raw, Marisol, Big Star, Riva Restaurant, Sable Kitchen & Bar, Tanta, The Windsor, Yusho, Eli's Cheesecake and Skinny Pop. Featured beverage sponsors include Lagunitas and Terrazas de los Andes.

“The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a longstanding partner of EXPO CHICAGO, working closely with us on numerous collaborations and the venerable Vernissage opening night tradition,” said President | Director of EXPO CHICAGO **Tony Karman**. “We are sincerely grateful to be a part of the MCA’s and the Women’s Board’s 50th Anniversary celebration and look forward to many more years of collaborations.”

Vernissage is generously sponsored by CIRM, Grund & Leavitt, Hu-Friedy, Belgravia Group, Dining Out and Northern Trust. Event partners are Navy Pier, Inc. and EXPO CHICAGO.

Proceeds from Vernissage support the MCA’s education programs, that offer compelling opportunities to explore, challenge, and discuss the most important issues of our time, with contemporary art as a catalyst.

Tickets and More Information

The MCA Women’s Board presents Vernissage, the exclusive first look at the sixth annual EXPO CHICAGO Wednesday, September 13 at Navy Pier’s Festival Hall (600 E. Grand Ave.). Tickets for the patron reception (5 – 7:00 p.m.) start at \$300. To purchase tickets, please call 312.397.4017, email kprince@mcachicago.org or visit mcachicago.org/vernissage. Tickets to Vernissage, the opening reception (6 – 9:00 p.m.), start at \$100 (MCA members). To purchase tickets, please visit mcachicago.org/vernissage or call 312.397.4010.

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 performing arts program, MCA Stage, 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.

About EXPO CHICAGO

EXPO CHICAGO/2017, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, is presented by Art Expositions, LLC at Navy Pier’s Festival Hall, hosting more than 135 leading International exhibitors presented alongside one of the highest quality platforms for global contemporary art and culture. Now in its sixth year as a leading international art fair, EXPO CHICAGO (September 13–17, 2017) offers diverse programming including **/Dialogues**, **IN/SITU**, **IN/SITU Outside**, **EXPO VIDEO**, the **Curatorial Forum**, the **Art Critics Forum**, **Special Exhibitions**, **EXPO Sound** and **OVERRIDE | A Billboard Project**. In addition, EXPO CHICAGO continues to publish **THE SEEN**, Chicago’s International Journal of Contemporary & Modern Art. 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. In 2017, **EXPO CHICAGO**

and the **Chicago Architecture Biennial** (September 16–January 7, 2018) will align, establishing the city as a preeminent destination for global contemporary art and architecture, intersecting across a wide variety of programs including panels, international residencies, exhibitions and citywide events. In addition, EXPO CHICAGO partners with the **Palais de Tokyo** in Paris for its first U.S. satellite exhibition to kick off EXPO CHICAGO (September 12) at the Roundhouse at the DuSable Museum of African American History.

Vernissage, the opening night preview benefiting the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, takes place Wednesday, Sept 13, 6–9 p.m. General Admission to the exposition is Thursday, Sept. 14–Sunday, Sept. 17 (for hours please visit expo-chicago.com). Tickets to the exposition will go on sale in June 2017. Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of EXPO CHICAGO. For more information about EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (Monday, Sept. 11–Sunday, Sept. 17), visit **expo-chicago.com**.

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