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**EXPO CHICAGO REPORTS STRONG SALES AND RECORD ATTENDANCE AT ITS MOST GLOBAL EDITION TO DATE**

**Sixth Edition Welcomed More Than 40,000 Visitors September 13 – 17, 2017, Marking Chicago as a Major International Destination**

CHICAGO—EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, concluded its sixth edition on Sunday, September 17, with record attendance of more than 40,000 visitors, exceptional presentations from exhibiting galleries and strong sales, in what was its most global edition to date. On opening day alone, the exposition welcomed 8,500 guests while raising money to benefit the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago during Vernissage. Collectors, curators, artists and art enthusiasts enjoyed an exclusive first look at 135 leading galleries from 25 countries and 58 cities throughout Navy Pier’s iconic Festival Hall.

“I am extremely proud that our sixth edition aligned with the opening of the Chicago Architecture Biennial and the Palais de Tokyo, contributing to an extraordinary week of international art, architecture and design events and exhibitions,” said EXPO CHICAGO President | Director **Tony Karman**. “We are sincerely grateful for the success of our participating exhibitors and for the overwhelmingly positive response to our critically acclaimed programming,” he added. “There is no city in the world that collaborates like Chicago, and that attitude coupled with the incredible support and involvement of our cultural institutions, collectors, galleries and artists will ensure that we will be welcoming the world together for many years to come.”

Dynamic programming, and a momentous collaboration with the **Palais de Tokyo** for their first-ever off-site exhibition in the United States with the **Institut français**—which took place at the **Roundhouse** at the **DuSable Museum of African American History** and kicked off EXPO ART WEEK on Tuesday, September 12—as well as the significant alignment with the opening of the **Chicago Architecture Biennial**, set the sixth edition apart, making Chicago the epicenter of the contemporary and modern art world as it opened the international fall art season.

EXPO CHICAGO welcomed back many returning galleries for 2017 as well as several new additions, whose curated and ambitious presentations drew critical praise. Exhibitors voiced

strong support from the greater Midwest collector base in addition to a high volume of nationally and internationally notable collectors, museum curators and institutions.

“This is the first year that Lévy Gorvy participated in EXPO CHICAGO and we were thrilled by the reception that we received from collectors, curators and a very enthusiastic public. Chicago has a personal significance for me, and a phenomenal history as a pioneering city for art, architecture and collecting. We were very pleased to see old friends and to enjoy the revitalized energy of this fair. In particular, we were happy that works by Pat Steir, Carol Rama, Senga Nengudi and Dan Colen found new homes in the Midwest.”

— **Brett Gorvy** | Lévy Gorvy

“Participating in EXPO CHICAGO for the first time, we wanted to show a dynamic selection of works. We were delighted with the level of engagement with the art from private collectors, as well as from representatives of major institutions.”

— **Millicent Wilner** | Gagosian

"The fair had and strong international representation of galleries this year and we continue to do good business with both known and new regional collectors. If a consensus can be achieved, and more top galleries join, EXPO CHICAGO is on it's way to being the dominant date and meeting point for American collectors West of the East Coast."

**Christopher D'Amelio** | David Zwirner

"Chicago-based clients are taking the fair a lot more seriously than in past years. The number of collectors from the Midwest has increased and business was particularly strong this year. EXPO CHICAGO is quickly becoming a major player in the global fair circuit."

— **David Nolan** | David Nolan Gallery

“We loved participating in EXPO CHICAGO this year. The curatorial attendance was invaluable, the collectors were genuinely interested and of course we were able to spend a week in our favorite city.”

— **Lauren Wittels** | Luhring Augustine

“EXPO CHICAGO brings a wonderful audience of patrons and museum groups every September. Over the years, this has allowed us to debut major exhibitions, in addition to an ambitious presentation at the fair. We were thrilled to prominently feature work by artists in both the booth space as well as a part of IN/SITU. We also featured modernist and blue-chip contemporary work for the first time and are beyond happy to place these works in prominent collections.”

— **Kavi Gupta** | Kavi Gupta

“We look forward to coming back to EXPO CHICAGO every fall and it’s gotten better for us every year. The Chicago collectors are adventurous and enthusiastic and take the time to engage. We meet new clients that don't visit many of the other fairs around the world but prefer to stay local.”

— **Evan Snyderman** | R & Company

"EXPO CHICAGO worked very well for us this year as we met new clients as well as curators. We were also able to spend more time with clients and curators that we already knew, more so than at other fairs. We are looking forward to returning next year."

— **Javier Peres** | Owner, Peres Projects

“Sales at the gallery were so strong this year, that by the end of the first day, we knew we would return to EXPO CHICAGO in 2018.”

— **Eric Gleason** | Paul Kasmin Gallery

“For our first participation with the fair, the outcome is very positive. It has been a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with Chicago-based public and private collections and to meet new clients. The pace is different from New York, this gives us more time to introduce curators and collectors to the historical part of our program. We also received a positive, strong response from the public towards an emerging artist we were showing at a fair for the first time.”

— **Danielle Cardoso Maia** | galerie frank elbaz

“I am very pleased with the quality of the fair and my impression is that this fair has now fully arrived and is to be taken very seriously. Collectors, institutions and galleries are paying attention, the quality of the work is there and sales are brisk. We did extremely well so far and expect more sales before the fair closes, so I am thrilled!”

— **Susanne Vielmetter** | Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects

“Chicago is a fantastic city with outstanding patronage and institutions. EXPO CHICAGO is also fantastic. Special mention must be made of Tony Karman’s inspired and enthusiastic leadership. We are excited to grow with the city of Chicago and its fair.”

— **David Lewis** | David Lewis

“I was thrilled to participate in this year’s EXPOSURE section, which was thoughtfully curated by Justine Ludwig. People were really excited by the artists we were exhibiting, Mira Dancy and Isabel Yellin. I am happy that Night Gallery was able to make a strong first impression at EXPO CHICAGO.”

— **David Nemeroff** | Night Gallery

“EXPO CHICAGO 2017 was a great experience for us and we could not have asked for a better follow up from EXPO CHICAGO 2016, when we won the Northern Trust Acquisition Prize. Many excellent collectors and museum professionals remembered our presentation due to the prize which led to strengthened connections this year. We were pleased to have a solo booth with Alec Egan in Chicago, where many of the works sold and the exposure led to him earning a museum show at the DuBuque Art Museum, and a project show with a prominent New York gallery who saw his work for the first time at the fair. In all, we look forward to the forthcoming editions of the fair due to its dedication to museum and collector attendance.”

— **Stefano di Paola** | Anat Ebgi

“Being part of EXPOSURE, we created and built upon our relationships with other exciting young galleries and their artists. The fair shined a bright light on our program and we connected with numerous prestigious institutions which discovered the Gallery for the first time at EXPO CHICAGO. Of course, one of the highlights was the honor of receiving the Northern Trust Purchase Prize, which made it possible for the Block Museum to acquire the First Edition of the full body of work *1972*, a performance-based photographic work by Israeli Rachel Monosov and Zimbabwean Admire Kamudzengerere.”

— **Catinca Tabacaru** | Catinca Tabacaru Gallery

“We garnered hugely positive response to the work of our artist John Seal in Chicago from a truly interested and diverse audience. The fair enabled us to increase John’s international exposure and we made sales to both new and existing clients.”

— Dina Münzfeld | König Gallery

### **Curatorial Forum**

In an effort to draw the leaders of top institutions to the exposition, EXPO CHICAGO once again hosted the Curatorial Forum, welcoming 30 of the region's top curators for the third year. Participating institutions included Aspen Art Museum, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Des Moines Institute of Art, Delaware Art Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, Eli and Edith Broad Art Museum, The Glass House, H&R Block Art Space, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Michigan State University, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, New Orleans Museum of Art, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, Perez Art Museum Miami, Queens Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Jose Museum of Art, Speed Art Museum, SCAD Museum of Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

The Forum also included a private Symposium in partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI), led by Independent Curator Jesus Carrillo in addition to a series of break-out sessions focused on critical questions relevant to contemporary practice and context, led by internationally recognized leaders in the field.

"I was so proud that Independent Curators International (ICI) was once again a part of EXPO CHICAGO's dynamic programming partnerships that draw from the civic and cultural dynamism of the city, from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to the Chicago Park District. In producing the Curatorial Forum together, we brought 30 curators from 17 US states to Chicago, and created a unique platform for exchange and discussion. The final day included a presentation by Jesús Carrillo, a rallying call for new models of thoughts around art institutions' civic role and potential. The experience was inspiring and, we hope, will lead to new collaborations among the participating curators."

— **Renaud Proch** | Executive Director, Independent Curators International

### **2017 Programming**

EXPO CHICAGO's robust programming allowed visitors the opportunity to extend discussion and discourse beyond the booths of the fair. **/Dialogues**, presented in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, once again offered panel discussions, conversations and provocative artistic discourse between today's most respected art professionals including a featured **Art & Architecture Symposium** in conjunction with the Chicago Architecture Biennial featuring original members of the **Italian Radical Design** movement, Artist **David Hartt** with *PIN—UP*'s **Felix Burrichter**, artists **Thomas Demand** and **Luisa Lambri**, and **Flavin Judd** with **Sarah Herda** and *Artforum*'s **Julian Rose**. Additional panels included author **Sarah Thornton** and artist **Paola Pivi**; a keynote discussion with **Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi**; Chicago-Based Artist **Michael Rakowitz** with **Omar Kholeif** in conjunction with the opening of his first-ever museum survey in the world; and a featured art criticism & rock & roll panel with critic and author **Jan Verwoert**, author **Jörg Heiser**, musician and author **Ian F. Svenonius** and founder of Pussy Riot **Nadya Tolokonnikova**, moderated by Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry Curator **Zachary Cahill**. As part of the Curatorial Forum (presented in partnership with ICI), Curators **Naomi Beckwith** and **Valerie Cassel Oliver** spoke in one of the most attended talks to date, entitled "Out of Body: Black Identity in Abstraction," moderated by Visual Critical Studies and Liberal Arts Associate Professor at SAIC **Romi Crawford**.

**Exchange by Northern Trust: *An Interactive Conversation Around the Art of Collecting*** also featured exclusive conversations including the **Museum Governance Forum**, presented in partnership with the **American Alliance of Museums** and **BoardSource**; a roundtable on **Race**

**& Representation in Contemporary Collections, Germano Celant** in conversation with artists from the Chicago Imagists and more.

Curated by **Florence Derieux**, the 2017 **IN/SITU** program, *Chronopolitics*, featured major suspended installations in addition to large-scale work capitalizing on the unique architecture of Navy Pier's Festival Hall. IN/SITU featured the work of **Sanford Biggers** (moniquemeloche | Chicago), **Tom Burr** (Bortolami | New York), **Alex Chitty** (PATRON | Chicago), **Bethany Collins** (PATRON | Chicago), **Nate Lowman** (Maccarone | New York, Los Angeles), **Lavar Munroe** (Jenkins Johnson Gallery | San Francisco, New York), **Manish Nai** (Kavi Gupta | Chicago), **Dan Peterman** (Rhona Hoffman Gallery | Chicago), **Lara Schnitger** (Anton Kern Gallery | New York), **Hiroshi Senju** (Sundaram Tagore Gallery | New York, Singapore, Hong Kong), **Troika** (Conny Freyer, Eva Rucki, Sebastien Noel) (Anne Mosseri-Marlio Galerie | Basel) and **Wang Du** (Galerie Laurent Godin | Paris).

The 2017 **EXPO VIDEO** program, *These Restless Times*, was on view in two large-format screenings rooms on the main floor of Festival Hall. Curated by **Ali Subotnick**, EXPO VIDEO featured an in-depth presentation of dynamic and provocative videos by artists **Stanya Kahn** (Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects | Los Angeles) and **Erik van Lieshout** (Anton Kern Gallery | New York), along with shorts by **Guthrie Lonergan** (Honor Fraser | Los Angeles).

**IN/SITU Outside**, in partnership with the Chicago Park District and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events featured the work of **Roger Hiorns** (Luhring Augustine), **Isa Genzken** (David Zwirner) and **Bernar Venet** (Paul Kasmin Gallery) and will be on display for an extended period of time throughout Chicago's neighborhoods and along the lakefront.

**OVERRIDE | A Billboard Project**, in collaboration with Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, allowed EXPO CHICAGO to once again further extend its reach throughout the city by placing the work of 12 artists from local, national and international galleries on Chicago's City Digital Network. The citywide public art initiative was on view from August 28 through the close of EXPO CHICAGO, September 17. For a complete listing of all **OVERRIDE** artists and documentation, click [here](#).

EXPO CHICAGO partnered with Navy Pier to present the inaugural **EXPO Sound** program during the sixth edition. Curated by **Daata Editions**, the program was installed on the public speaker system at Navy Pier—along the South Dock, within the exposition entrance, and on the /Dialogues Stage—and featured works from artists represented by EXPO CHICAGO 2017 Exhibitors. For a list of artists and work, click [here](#).

More than **25 Special Exhibitions** were included in this year's exposition highlighting EXPO CHICAGO's mission to illustrate and preserve the important link between the arts, philanthropic and nonprofit organizations through unique and high-quality exhibitions. Top museums, universities, organizations and institutions participated. For a complete list of participants and projects, click [here](#).

EXPO CHICAGO also presented the second annual **Art Critics Forum** on Thursday, September 14. Moderated by *artnet* news critic **Christian Viveros-Fauné**, "Criticism in the Post-Truth Era" featured presentations by noted journalists including *Afterall* Editor Ana Bilbao, *ARTnews* Editor-in-Chief **Sarah Douglas**, freelance critic **Kevin McGarry** and *artnet* news critic **Kenny Schachter**, followed by a roundtable discussion.

For more programming, please visit [expo-chicago.com](http://expo-chicago.com).

### **Palais de Tokyo**

EXPO CHICAGO, the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Institut français and The DuSable Museum of African American History, in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States presented the first U.S. off-site exhibition of the Palais de Tokyo. Kicking off EXPO ART WEEK on Tuesday, September 12 *Singing Stones*, curated by Katell Jaffrès, featured the work of 11 artists selected from both the French and Chicago art scene. In addition to the site-specific works and new commissions on view, robust programming co-curated by EXPO CHICAGO and the Palais de Tokyo, including panel discussions, performances, curated tours and more, open to the public, will continue through October 29, 2017.

### **Northern Trust**

Returning for the fifth year as EXPO CHICAGO's Presenting Sponsor, **Northern Trust's** partnership continues to ensure the fair's longevity and ability to attract art influencers from around the world. In addition to sponsorship of the VIP Collectors Lounge, Northern Trust once again offered clients a private VIP experience in the Northern Trust Anchor Lounge. This dedicated space provided a venue for Northern Trust's signature programming, including *Exchange by Northern Trust: An interactive conversation around the art of collecting* featuring highlighted panel discussions with top arts professionals from around the world. Northern Trust also hosted an exclusive dinner for their clients at Theaster Gates' Rebuild Foundation in the radically restored Stony Island Arts Bank as part of the Collector's Experience, after treating clients to an exclusive first look at the Palais de Tokyo's *Singing Stones* exhibition.

On Saturday, September 16, Northern Trust awarded the **Northern Trust Purchase Prize to Rachel Monosov and Admire Kamudzengerere** for the 2017 collaborative project *1972*. The work, featuring 23 black and white photographic prints and accompanying descriptive cards, was exhibited by **Catinca Tabacaru Gallery** as part of the EXPOSURE section (galleries eight years and younger) of the exposition. The piece was gifted to the Northwestern Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art.

### **Sponsors**

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Northern Trust, premier sponsors included. Premiere sponsors to date include BMW of North America, David Yurman, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Americas and Ruinart Champagne. Additional sponsors include Artsy, Art Money, Artichoke, Athena Art Finance, AXA Art Americas Corporation, Chartwell Insurance Services, The Conservation Center, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, Heritage Auctions, LALIQUE, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, The Peninsula Chicago, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Sotheby's, Terry Dowd, Inc., United Airlines, Vista Residences and Willis Towers Watson. Additional EXPO CHICAGO beverage sponsors include Aqua Carpatica, EFFEN Vodka, Sipsmith Gin, Lagunitas Brewing Co., SömruS, Terrazas de los Andes and Nespresso.

The official Hotel Sponsor was Peninsula Hotel Chicago. Hotel partners included Park Hyatt Chicago, Ace Hotel Chicago, Ambassador Chicago, Hyatt Place, The Godfrey Hotel Chicago, The Robey Chicago, Thompson Chicago, Virgin Hotel Chicago (Official Sponsor of the Art Critics Forum) and W Chicago Lakeshore.

### **About EXPO CHICAGO**

EXPO CHICAGO, 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. Entering its seventh year as a leading international art fair, EXPO CHICAGO 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** aligned with the opening of the Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 16–January 7, 2018), 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 also partnered with the Palais de Tokyo in Paris for its first U.S. satellite exhibition to kick off EXPO CHICAGO (September 12–October 29, 2017) at the Roundhouse at the DuSable Museum of African American History.

EXPO CHICAGO 2018 will return September 27–30. The seventh edition will align with **Art Design Chicago**, and together with the **Chicago Humanities Festival**, **Navy Pier** and the **Terra Foundation for American Art**, will present the first-ever **Hans Ulrich Obrist Marathon** in the United States.

For more information on EXPO CHICAGO and EXPO ART WEEK (September 24–30, 2018) visit [expochicago.com](http://expochicago.com).