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**THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO'S VERNISSAGE  
RETURNS TO OPEN SEVENTH ANNUAL EXPO CHICAGO,  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018**

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 Contemporary & Modern Art on **Thursday, September 27, 2018**. Guests will be treated to an exclusive first look at art from 135 of the world's leading international galleries participating in the seventh annual exposition (Sept. 27 – 30) 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 [mchicago.org/vernissage](http://mchicago.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 8,500 visitors to one of Chicago's most sought out and influential events of the year. Guests are invited to take in the vast show floor for an exclusive look at more than 3,000 works of artwork from galleries representing 27 countries and 63 cities from around the world. The MCA's Women's Board has partnered with EXPO CHICAGO to present Vernissage since the inception of the exposition seven years ago.

"Each year, Vernissage provides the opportunity to view some of highest caliber contemporary art from around the world, while celebrating the incredible philanthropic spirit of the Chicago arts community," said MCA Chief Development Officer **Lisa Key**. "The MCA Women's Board is very proud to organize this incredible event each year, and continues to find innovative ways to support Chicago's historic artistic legacy and thriving climate for contemporary art creation."

This unique celebration, co-chaired by MCA Women's Board members **Marcia Fraerman** and **Cathy Ross** and Woman's Board President **Ellen B. Wallace**, begins with a Patron Reception at 5 pm in the VIP Collector's Lounge, presented by Northern Trust (located on the west end of Festival Hall) featuring food by some of Chicago's top restaurants and food providers including: 20E, Benihana, Big Star, Chicago Raw, Eli's Cheesecake, Goodies, Marisol, Nude Dude Food,

Riva Crab House, Tanta, The Windsor, BuzzBox, Essentia, Foodstuffs, RX Bar, Skinny Pop and Sunset Foods. Featured beverage sponsors include Terrazas de los Andes and Pipeworks Brewery.

“As we present the seventh edition of EXPO CHICAGO, we gratefully acknowledge the Museum of Contemporary Art for their longstanding partnership and support,” said President | Director of EXPO CHICAGO **Tony Karman**. “We are quite proud to be collaborating with the MCA’s Women’s Board on the annual Vernissage benefit event and for the numerous collaborations that we foster with the MCA each year.”

Vernissage is generously sponsored by CIRM, Grund & Leavitt, Hu-Friedy and Tabet Divito Rothstein. Event partners are Navy Pier, Inc., Northern Trust and EXPO CHICAGO. The media partner is Michigan Avenue Magazine.

Proceeds from Vernissage support the MCA’s learning and public programs, that offer compelling opportunities to explore, discuss, and reflect on the most important issues of our time, using contemporary art as a catalyst.

### **Tickets and More Information**

The MCA Women’s Board presents Vernissage, the exclusive first look at the seventh annual EXPO CHICAGO on Thursday September 27 at Navy Pier’s Festival Hall (600 E. Grand Ave.). Tickets for the patron reception (5-7 pm) start at \$300. To purchase tickets, please call 312.397.4017, email [kprince@mcachicago.org](mailto:kprince@mcachicago.org) or visit [mcachicago.org/vernissage](http://mcachicago.org/vernissage). Tickets to Vernissage, the opening reception (6-9 pm), start at \$100 (MCA Members). To purchase tickets, please visit [mcachicago.org/vernissage](http://mcachicago.org/vernissage), call [312-397-4017](tel:312-397-4017) or email [eventsrsvp@mcachicago.org](mailto:eventsrsvp@mcachicago.org).

### **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 2018**, 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**, **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.

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 **Creative Chicago**, the first-ever **Hans Ulrich Obrist** Interview Marathon in the United States on **Saturday, September 29**.

Vernissage, the opening night preview benefiting the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, takes place Thursday, Sept 27, 6–9 p.m. General Admission to the exposition is Thursday, Sept. 27 –Sunday, Sept. 30 (for hours please visit [expochicago.com](http://expochicago.com)). Tickets to the exposition are on sale now. Northern Trust is the Presenting Sponsor of EXPO CHICAGO. For more information about EXPO CHICAGO and **EXPO ART WEEK** (Monday, Sept. 24–Sunday, Sept. 30), visit [expochicago.com](http://expochicago.com).

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