



## WINNERS ANNOUNCED | THREE PRIZES at EXPO CHICAGO 2023

EXPO CHICAGO today announced the recipients of three distinct prizes awarded onsite at the fair's tenth anniversary edition: the annual Northern Trust Purchase Prize, the inaugural Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize, and the inaugural Barbara Nessim Curatorial Travel Award.

Corresponding images are available [here](#).

**Northern Trust**, the exposition's Presenting Sponsor, has awarded the **Northern Trust Purchase Prize** to three national institutions: **Seattle Art Museum**; the **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg**; and **Saint Louis Art Museum**. As recipients, a representative from each institution has selected pieces from the fair's EXPOSURE section, which features galleries ten years and younger. Northern Trust will purchase the selected artworks for the institutions' permanent collections.

"The Northern Trust Purchase Prize shares with the EXPOSURE section a spirit of inclusion and mission to enhance visibility of underrecognized artists and arts regions. The artists in the EXPOSURE section, presented by up-and-coming galleries ten years and younger, have the opportunity to be included in important institutional collections from around the country, and, in turn, the institutions gain by adding to their holdings the work of exciting creators that perhaps were under their radar."

— **Aimé Iglesias Lukin** | 2023 EXPOSURE curator & Director and Chief Curator of Visual Arts at Americas Society in New York

- **Seattle Art Museum** will acquire the painting *Phahamong III* by Mohau Modisakeng from Martin Art Projects.

"The paintings reflect on the theme of sacred places and places of ritual. In these works the figures stand in juxtaposition to the natural landscape of a forest or mountain observing a ritual of cleansing (such as a river)." — **Mohau Modisakeng** | Artist

"With a passion for both new and established artists from South Africa and its diaspora, I am absolutely thrilled to be showing the first body of paintings from Mohau Modisakeng at EXPO CHICAGO. I am especially proud that one of these works will now be in the Seattle Art Museum, to be enjoyed and appreciated for many generations. Thank you to the Seattle Art Museum, the Northern Trust and EXPO CHICAGO."

— **Igsaan Martin, Founder and Director** | Martin Art Projects

"We're so thankful to be able to acquire a painting by Mohan Modisakeng. It enhances our efforts to collect living artists, especially those from outside the United States. It

bridges many areas of our collection and we look forward to seeing it in Seattle.”

— **José Carlos Diaz, | Susan Brotman Deputy Director for Art, Seattle Art Museum**

- The **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg** will acquire *Ahua Can*, a mixed-media sculpture by Claudia Peña Salinas from Embajada.

"I am honored that Katherine Pill, senior curator of contemporary art at the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts has selected *Ahua Can* for the Northern Trust prize. It's very meaningful to also have this acquisition happen in Chicago, the city where my family still lives and where I went to school." — **Claudia Peña Salinas | Artist**

"We are so grateful for this prize, not only is it an important endorsement of Claudia's practice but it represents crucial support for a small independent operation like our gallery to continue promoting the work of artists like Claudia who expand the language of contemporary art and shed light on new accounts of influence and historical knowledge." — **Manuela Paz | Co-Founder and Director, Emajada**

"Claudia Peña Salinas weaves a research-based practice with a rigorous dedication to refined craft, producing a body of innovative conceptual work that is beautiful, evocative, and compelling. *Ahua Can* is an ideal addition to our encyclopedic museum, a work that stands powerfully on its own and will be richly generative in dialogue with our collections. We look forward to welcoming this work and introducing the artist to our community." — **Katherine Pill | Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg**

- **Saint Louis Art Museum** will acquire the large-scale painting *Irawo II* by Wole Lagunju from Montague Contemporary.

"I am honored to be included in the permanent collection of the St. Louis Art Museum. It feels serendipitous that the work "*Irawo II*" —which translates from the Yoruba language as 'destiny'—is being chosen and it is the fulfillment of a dream." — **Wole Lagunju | Artist**

"We are thrilled to have Wole Lagunju joining the esteemed ranks of the St. Louis Art Museum (SLAM), and hope that his work continues to draw attention to the potential interplay between historical Yoruba traditions and how we navigate the contemporary Western landscape." — **Montague Hermann | Founder and Director, Montague Contemporary**

“We are very excited at the Saint Louis Art Museum to acquire Wole Lagunju’s *Irawo II*. This is a painting which has a powerful presence and will be a significant addition to our ongoing collecting of African contemporary art. Full of layered meanings, the work will also be a wonderful complement to the Yoruba beaded crowns in the Museum’s encyclopedic collection.”

— **Min Jung Kim | Barbara B. Taylor Director, Saint Louis Art Museum**

“We are delighted to support these three museums and the artists who created the selected works. Contemporary art is a vital component of every community, and Northern Trust is proud of our continued commitment to the arts.”

— **John Fumagalli | President, Central Region Northern Trust Wealth Management**

EXPO CHICAGO and Independent Curators International (ICI) today named recipients of the inaugural **Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize** and the **Barbara Nessim Curatorial Travel Award**, both of which are administered through ICI and fully funded by Barbara Nessim, an artist known for her legacy of supporting women in the arts.

### **Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize**

This year ***Auto-da-Fé (Act of Faith)*** by **Selva Aparicio** will be donated to Chicago’s **DePaul Art Museum** as the inaugural **Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize**. Awarded annually to the DePaul Art Museum through at least 2025, the prize is dedicated to the purchase of an artwork by a woman artist valued up to \$10,000 on view at EXPO CHICAGO. Barbara Nessim, Mary Dinaburg, and DePaul Art Museum Director, Laura-Caroline de Lara helmed the 2023 selection committee.

"I'm very honored to receive the Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize and for the work to become part of the permanent collection at DePaul Museum. *Auto-da-Fé* or *Act of Faith* was inspired by the hidden meanings that materials carry in the liminal space between death and full decomposition. The idea that value can be decided in a moment, as I saw with the flowers discarded at the cemetery, raises questions about what it means to be forgotten, to lose value, or even to exist in this liminal space. Thank you to all the selection committee for this award, including Barbara Nessim, Mary Dinaburg, ICI Director Renaud Proch and DePaul Museum Curator Ionit Behar. Thank you also to Artadia for making this platform possible."

— **Selva Aparicio | Artist**

"We are honored and beyond grateful to Barbara Nessim for her generosity in giving this prize to DePaul Art Museum. Walking through EXPO CHICAGO for the past few days with Barbara, her step-daughter Anna Demchick, and Mary Dinburg, has been one of the highlights of my career. We are thrilled for Barbara's choice to award this prize to Selva Aparicio and the donation of her work *Auto-da-Fé (Act of Faith)* to DePaul Art Museum's collection. Just like Barbara, Selva defies any categorisation, creating artwork from the deepest place of herself, with profound sensibility for materials and what they project into the world."

— **Ionit Behar | Associate Curator, DePaul Art Museum**

“Artadia is thrilled that Selva’s piece has been selected for the Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize. As an organization with a mission to support artists at pivotal moments of their career with unrestricted funds, we are honored to be affiliated with Barbara’s mission of supporting women-identifying artists.”

— **Bora Kim | Program Manager, Artadia**

### **Barbara Nessim Curatorial Travel Award**

**Stephanie Seidel**, curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (ICA Miami) has been named the 2023 recipient of the **Barbara Nessim Curatorial Travel Award**, an annual travel grant of \$3,000 awarded to support the curatorial practice of one woman curator attending the Curatorial Forum. Seidel was selected by a committee composed of ICI Director Renaud Proch, Barbara Nessim, and Mary Dinaburg. The award will support Seidel’s work on a forthcoming monograph on the conceptual and theoretical aspects of the work of Betye Saar.

“I’m honored to be the first recipient of the Barbara Nessim Travel Award and truly grateful to ICI and EXPO CHICAGO for their crucial support of my research on American artist Betye Saar. Saar has been recognized as a pioneer of readymade art on the West Coast and Black feminist art in the United States since the 1960s, yet her installations from the 1980s and 1990s are a lesser-known aspect of her work. The travel award will allow me to continue my research on Saar’s installations through interviews and archival research in New York and Los Angeles. This work will expand the scholarship on this important artist’s multi-layered practice and her rich narrative worlds that reflect on ritual, spirituality, and cosmologies in the African diaspora.”

—**Stephanie Seidel | Curator, ICA Miami & recipient of the inaugural Barbara Nessim Travel Award**

“Artists are at the core of everything a curator does. As curators, we are inspired by their work, guided by their visionary thinking. So it is always an immense honor to be the recipient of an artist’s generosity, to be recognized by an artist. We’re so pleased to be facilitating the Barbara Nessim Curatorial Travel Award, which this year will support Stephanie Seidel’s research; as well as the Barbara Nessim Acquisition Prize benefiting the DePaul Art Museum.”

—**Renaud Proch | Executive & Artistic Director, ICI**

“My 60-year artistic career included a multi-discipline practice involving two spheres, my fine art informing my illustration. In the early 60’s I didn’t realize I was one of few women in both disciplines. Fast forward to now—although the artworld has become more inclusive of women, there is still room for progress. It is my intention that these awards encourage and support brilliant women artists and curators to further their work and pursue their dreams.”

—**Barbara Nessim | Artist**

### **About EXPO CHICAGO**

EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art features leading international galleries alongside a leading platform for contemporary art and cultural programming. Hosted within historic Navy Pier’s Festival Hall, EXPO CHICAGO presents a diverse and inventive program, including /Dialogues (presented in partnership with the School of

the Art Institute of Chicago) and 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 Billboard Project, 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); the Curatorial Exchange, which partners with foreign agencies and consulates to expand the exposition's global reach; and the Director's Summit, which convenes emerging museum leaders in a series of conversations addressing the future of museum leadership and institutional reinvention. 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, visit [expochicago.com](http://expochicago.com).

### **About Northern Trust**

Northern Trust Corporation (Nasdaq: NTRS) is a leading provider of wealth management, asset servicing, asset management and banking to corporations, institutions, affluent families, and individuals. Founded in Chicago in 1889, Northern Trust has a global presence with offices in 25 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., and across 23 locations in Canada, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region. As of December 31, 2022, Northern Trust had assets under custody/administration of US\$13.6 trillion, and assets under management of US\$1.2 trillion. For more than 130 years, Northern Trust has earned distinction as an industry leader for exceptional service, financial expertise, integrity and innovation. Visit us on [northerntrust.com](http://northerntrust.com). Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NorthernTrust) @NorthernTrust or Northern Trust Corporation on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-trust).

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### **About Northern Trust Wealth Management**

**Northern Trust Wealth Management** offers holistic wealth management services for affluent individuals and families, family offices, foundations and endowments, and privately held businesses. It is recognized for its innovative technology, service excellence and depth of expertise, with \$351.4 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2022. The Northern Trust Company is an Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

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