



THE
INTERNATIONAL
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11-14 APRIL 2024
CHICAGO | NAVY PIER



EXPO CHICAGO REVEALS FIRST CURATORIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC DETAILS FOR 2024 EDITION

Partnership with Independent Curators International (ICI) to host the 2024 Curatorial Forum with Keynote by Miguel A. López

New On-Site Conference, “Curating and The Commons,” to include over 200 Curators, Museum Directors, Foundation Leaders, and Members of the Creative Community

Third Annual Directors Summit features a keynote lecture at the University Club of Chicago by Dr. Louise Bernard, Founding Director of the Obama Presidential Center Museum (The Obama Foundation).

CHICAGO — **EXPO CHICAGO** today reveals curatorial initiatives for the 11th edition (April 11-14, 2024) returning to Navy Pier’s Festival Hall. In partnership with **Independent Curators International (ICI)**, EXPO CHICAGO will host its tenth annual **Curatorial Forum** — ninth co-organized with ICI. This year’s forum will feature for the first time a curatorial conference, **“Curating and The Commons,”** taking place on-site at Navy Pier with a keynote by **Miguel A. López**, co-curator for the 2024 edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art.

EXPO CHICAGO also announces the third edition of the annual **Directors Summit**, a three-day program that brings together art museum leaders from across the country. The summit is in partnership with museum consultant Jill Snyder and features a keynote lecture at the University Club of Chicago by Dr. Louise Bernard, Founding Director of the Obama Presidential Center Museum (The Obama Foundation).

“The expansion of our curatorial initiatives continues to reach further each year, bringing together curators from across the world to forge new and exciting partnerships during our yearly multi-day convening,” said Kate Sierzputowski, Artistic Director of EXPO CHICAGO. “This year’s curatorial conference is a natural extension of the program that will continue the initiative’s reach and impact beyond the selected cohort.”

The **Curatorial Forum** is an annual program that offers mid-career and established curators working independently or with an institutional affiliation the opportunity to engage with their peers and explore significant issues in the field. The conference provides an opportunity for the Curatorial Forum to expand its reach to a broader arts audience for two days of panels and a keynote by Miguel A. López, co-curator for the 2024 edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art.

“The Curatorial Forum is an important platform for curators to meet, exchange, and address some of the biggest challenges in the field,” said Renaud Proch, ICI’s Executive and Artistic Director.



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“This year, we have conceived a more public Forum, with opportunities for a broader audience to hear from independent thinkers from around the world who have created new approaches to engaging with communities, shaping collective memory, and imagining a different future through art. ”

The newly formed conference, “Curating and The Commons,” will expand beyond the annual convening of 80+ national and international curators. Three panel discussions: *Common Knowledge*, *Common Space*, and *Common Future* have been conceived around key questions and organized on a loose temporal framework. *Common Knowledge* will reach into the past, and explore how archives, collections, and libraries can shape a collective memory. *Common Space* is invested in how communities physically shape the present. And lastly, *Common Future* will examine the civic role that the arts can play in not only imagining, but actively creating a better future.

“I’m truly honored to contribute to the 2024 Curatorial Forum convened by ICI and EXPO CHICAGO to think collectively about the challenges and possibilities of today,” said Miguel A. López, co-curator for the 2024 edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art and Keynote of the 2024 edition of Curatorial Forum. “In a moment where art power structures and the traditional role of the curator are being redefined radically, it is vital to keep creating more spaces for pause, self-reflection, and listening to what our previous and current engagements are teaching us. I look forward to joining the conversation around ‘Curating the Commons’, which I feel offers a great opportunity to tackle the normalization of neoliberal values within art institutions while considering the power of non-formalized ways of understanding curatorship—a constellation of strategies and models that arise from the specificity of localized needs and the urgency of establishing new dialogues with a place.”

The program invites global curators, museum directors, foundation leaders, and Chicago’s creative community to participate in the initiative. The curatorial conference’s audience will join invited curators from the Curatorial Forum, found [here](#), alongside participants from the international **Curatorial Exchange**, found [here](#). The Curatorial Exchange is one of the nation’s only dedicated initiatives focused on funding global curator convenings that fosters future collaborations for curators on the local, national, and international level.

The fifth annual Exchange is developed in partnership with foreign consulates and cultural agencies from countries around the world including the Australian Consulate-General Chicago; the Danish Arts Foundation and the Consulate General of Denmark in New York; Villa Albertine and the Consulate General of France in Chicago; Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Chicago; Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago and the Lithuanian Culture Institute; the Consulado General de México en Chicago; Dutch Culture USA, a program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York; Instituto Cervantes of Chicago; the Taipei Cultural Center in New York; and the Québec Government Office in Chicago.



The 2024 Curatorial Forum is co-produced by EXPO CHICAGO and ICI, and made possible, in part, by the generous support of sponsors 21c Museum Hotel Chicago and the Joyce Foundation, Teiger Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Hartfield Foundation; with additional support by Gallagher. It is part of Art Design Chicago, a citywide collaboration initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art that highlights the city's artistic heritage and creative communities.

In 2024 EXPO CHICAGO will also celebrate the third edition of the annual **Directors Summit**, an initiative that gathers an emerging generation of art museum leaders from across the country for a three-day program of conversations around civic responsibility and advancing organizational growth and change in response to the call for an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future. Facing the profound challenges of an election year, the 2024 Directors Summit offers a forum for museum leaders to share how their institutions offer an invaluable "third space" to explore civic discourse and foster common ground.

Shaped in partnership with museum consultant Jill Snyder, the Directors Summit is centered on two public roundtable discussions that take place on the /Dialogues stage at EXPO CHICAGO, a brunch at the Chicago Cultural Center hosted by the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and a keynote lecture at the University Club of Chicago by Dr. Louise Bernard, Founding Director, Obama Presidential Center Museum (The Obama Foundation). Participants in the Directors Summit may be found [here](#).

The 2024 Directors Summit is made possible by the support of Sotheby's, Bloomberg Connects, the Terra Foundation for American Art, and the University Club of Chicago.

Further details about /Dialogues and other programming will be released in the coming weeks.

About ICI

Independent Curators International (ICI) supports the work of curators to help create stronger art communities through experimentation, collaboration, and international engagement. Curators are arts community leaders and organizers who champion artistic practices; build essential infrastructures and institutions; and generate public engagement with art. Our collaborative programs connect curators across generations and across social, political and cultural borders. They form an international framework for sharing knowledge and resources—promoting cultural exchange, access to art, and public awareness for the curator's role.



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About EXPO CHICAGO

EXPO CHICAGO showcases leading contemporary and modern art galleries each April at Navy Pier's Festival Hall, alongside a diverse and inventive program of talks, on-site installations, and public art initiatives. Inaugurated in 2012, EXPO CHICAGO draws upon the city's rich history as a vibrant international cultural destination, while highlighting the region's contemporary arts community. In 2023, EXPO CHICAGO was acquired by Frieze, the world's leading platform for modern and contemporary art. For more information on EXPO CHICAGO, visit expochicago.com.

About Miguel A. López

Miguel A. López is currently co-curator for the 2024 edition of the Toronto Biennial of Art. In his practice, he focuses on the role of art in politics and public life, collective work and collaborative dynamics, and queer and feminist rewritings of history. From 2015 to 2020, he worked as Chief curator, and later Co-director at TEOR/ética, Costa Rica. Previously, López was curator of Lugar a Dudas, Colombia, in 2012-2013. In 2014, he curated the section "Deus é bicha" (God is Queer) and the presentation of Giuseppe Campuzano's Transvestite Museum for the 31st Bienal de São Paulo. In 2019, he curated the retrospective exhibition "Cecilia Vicuña: Seehearing the Enlightened Failure" at the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art (now Kunstinstituut Melly), Rotterdam, which traveled to Mexico City, Madrid, and Bogota. Between 2023 and 2024, a second retrospective "Cecilia Vicuña. Dreaming Water," curated by López, is being presented at the Fine Art Museum (MNBA) in Chile, MALBA in Argentina, and Pinacoteca de São Paulo in Brazil. Other recent curatorial projects include "Sila Chanto & Belkis Ramírez: Aquí me quedo / Here I Stay" at the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond (2022), "Hard to Swallow. Anti-Patriarchal Poetics and New Scene in the Nineties" at Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano, Lima (2021), and "And if I devoted my life to one of its feathers?" at the Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2021). He is the editor and author of more than twenty books on issues of art, sexuality, social justice, cultural infrastructure, and political memory. He was a recipient of the 2016 ICI's Independent Vision Curatorial Award. Lives and works in Toronto.

About Jill Snyder

Jill Snyder is an institution builder with a proven record of leading innovation, growth, and change. As executive director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland she leveraged moCa's beginnings as a small but influential arts center to become a vital civic hub and emblem of Cleveland's cultural renaissance. Along the way, Snyder shaped conversations about the public value of museums and contemporary art. A museum professional for over 30 years, Snyder has held administrative and educational positions at the Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art in NYC, and served as Director of The Aldrich Museum and Freedman Gallery at Albright College. Snyder is co-founder of the Contemporary Art Museum Directors (CAMD), a critical platform for developing leaders in contemporary art institutions. She has participated in



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numerous leadership programs, including National Art Strategies' Chief Executive Program, The Getty Leadership Institute, Stanford University School of Business, and Leadership Cleveland. Snyder serves on the Boards of the Cleveland School of the Arts and Cleveland Israel Arts Connection and is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors. In 2013 she received the Ohio Governor's Award for Arts Administration and the Cleveland Arts Prize Martha Joseph Award. Snyder earned her BA from Wesleyan University and conducted graduate studies in art history at New York University's Institute of Fine Art.

About Dr. Louise Bernard

Dr. Louise Bernard is a Senior Vice President at the Obama Foundation and the founding Director of the Obama Presidential Center Museum. As a Senior Content Developer and Interpretive Planner in the New York office of the museum design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates, she worked on the design team that developed the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, along with other national and international projects. She previously served as Director of Exhibitions at the New York Public Library, as Curator of Prose and Drama for the Yale Collection of American Literature at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, and as Assistant Professor of English at Georgetown University. She received a BA Hons in Drama from the University of Manchester, an MA in Theatre History and an MA in English Literature from Indiana University, Bloomington, and a Ph.D. in African American Studies and American Studies from Yale. Her current research engages with the literary archive, material culture, museology, public history, and interpretive planning and design. She serves on the Advisory Council for the Johnson Publishing Company Archive and is a recipient of the 2021 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University.

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