



**Terra Foundation for American Art Announces Scholarly Symposia
As Part of *Art Design Chicago*, A Year-Long Initiative
Examining the Breadth and Influence of Chicago's Creative Communities**

Chicago—October 4, 2018—The Terra Foundation for American Art released today a roster of scholarly symposia being organized as part of its year-long *Art Design Chicago* initiative. Taking place throughout the fall, from October through December 2018, these events bring together esteemed scholars from Chicago, across the U.S., and Europe, who will offer new research, insights, and perspectives and foster ongoing dialogues on a diverse range of subjects. Among the symposia topics are the significance of the South Side neighborhood to Chicago's cultural fabric and the development of Black visual and material culture nationally; the role of African American designers in social and political movements and changes; a place-based consideration of outsider art in Chicago and other centers internationally, both within the art historical canon and commercial market; and the importance of feminist artist-run activities in Chicago from the late 19th century to the present. Many of the events are free and open to the public, encouraging active engagement among academics, arts professionals, students, and the general public alike.

Spearheaded by the Terra Foundation, *Art Design Chicago*, which first launched in January 2018, features more than 30 exhibitions, a vast array of public and academic programs, a television series, and publications, developed by more than 75 cultural partners, in and outside of Chicago. Envisioned as an opportunity to reassess and explore deeply the breadth of Chicago's art and design legacy, the initiative has brought to the fore little-known narratives of artists, designers, and creative thinkers who have shaped Chicago's cultural landscape and influenced innovations across the U.S. and abroad. The scholarly symposia further encapsulate a primary goal for the initiative: to spur new research that provides a foundation for future projects beyond 2018's slate of activities, and to contribute to American art scholarship by building understanding of Chicago's role as a major metropolitan art center.

"As we developed *Art Design Chicago*, in collaboration with our many programmatic partners, it quickly became important to all those involved that this initiative have a lasting impact and also serve as a beginning. Although we have concentrated a large number of exhibitions and projects in 2018, our vision is to inspire and provide support for a wider examination of the artists and innovators that have come from and through Chicago, especially those who may have been under-represented in our cultural and artistic dialogues and histories," said Amy Zinck, Executive Vice President of the Terra Foundation. "This fall's symposia speak directly to that vision, with scholars, educators, and even the public, in some instances, being invited to present new research. We look forward not only to these discussions, but to the future exhibitions and projects they might yield."

Several of the symposia have been organized in conjunction with exhibitions currently on view as part of *Art Design Chicago*, providing additional opportunities to connect with audiences and offer a range of perspectives on the featured artists, artworks, and artistic movements. Some of these exhibitions include: *The Time Is Now! Art Worlds of Chicago's South Side, 1960–1980* at the Smart Museum of Art, University

of Chicago (through December 30); *3-D Doings: The Imagist Object in Chicago Art, 1964-1980* at Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College (through January 6); *Chicago Calling: Art Against the Flow* at Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art (through January 6); and *The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold: Art, Identity & Politics* at Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago (opening October 11), among several others.

A listing of the scholarly symposia follows below, with more information available on the *Art Design Chicago* website: www.ArtDesignChicago.org.

“Say It With Pictures” Then and Now: Chicago’s African American Photographers
October 12, 2018, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Columbia College Chicago
Event is free and open to the public

The Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP) hosts art historian Amy Mooney in conversation with the esteemed photography scholar Deborah Willis. The discussion will focus on the forgotten works of African American commercial photographers working in Chicago from the 1890s through the 1930s.

Chicago was home to an expansive commercial photography industry supported through the city’s growing black press; and yet, the city’s contributions to the practice of commercial photography have long been overlooked. Considering the work of over 65 studios owned and operated by African Americans, which Amy Mooney has documented through extensive archival research, both Mooney and Willis will discuss the ways photographs from the 1890s to 1930s transformed the visual representation of black America, within the public realm of popular culture and the private space of the family album. From the glamour shots by Woodard’s Studio to Patton Studio’s documentation of the opening of the George Cleveland Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library, these images, circulated in national publications, significantly contributed in affirming and celebrating representation of black lives.

The conversation is followed by a reception, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the MoCP and an opportunity to view exhibitions, including *The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold: Art, Identity & Politics* and *Echoes: Reframing Collage*.

“Say It with Pictures” is part of a larger a multi-tiered academic project presented in collaboration with the Black Metropolis Research Consortium and the Chicago Public Library Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature. In addition to this event, the project includes a workshop for invited scholars and two crowd-sourcing sessions in which the public will have the opportunity to share photographs and other source materials. The project will culminate in an interactive digital exhibition hosted on the MoCP’s website and a print publication.

Symposium: Unfinished Business! The South Side and Chicago Art
October 19–20, 2018
Columbia College Chicago and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts
Event is free; Registration required

This symposium addresses the historic significance of the South Side as a community, a set of institutions, and a collection of artists. Although under-recognized in most surveys of Chicago art, the South Side nurtured important artistic movements, raised complex questions about the nature of black aesthetics, and promoted the arts through community arts organizations in ways that are still shaping the fabric of Chicago. Through a series of panels and intergenerational dialogues, the symposium connects the history of the South Side to the present moment, in which the community,

its arts organizations, and artists continue to play a central role in the visual culture and artistic dialogue of Chicago's vibrant art and design community.

The symposium is co-presented by the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, which will open *The Many Hats of Ralph Arnold: Art, Identity & Politics* on October 11, and the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, which is currently presenting *The Time Is Now! Art Worlds of Chicago's South Side, 1960–1980*.

Schedule highlights include:

Keynote Address: Black Parnassus: Art in Chicago in the Interwar Years (October 19, at 6:00 p.m.): Richard J. Powell, John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art & Art History at Duke University. A specialist in American art, the arts of the African Diaspora, and contemporary visual studies, he has written extensively, including such titles as *Homecoming: The Art and Life of William H. Johnson* (1991), *Black Art: A Cultural History* (1997 & 2002), and *Cutting a Figure: Fashioning Black Portraiture* (2008).

Spaces: The South Side and Black Cultural Institutions (October 20, from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.): This panel reflects on the South Side as a site of cultural production and activism, and explores how it functioned within and responded to the social/cultural/political conditions. The panel includes Natalie Moore, WBEZ reporter and author of *The South Side*; Maséqua Myers, Executive Director of the South Side Community Art Center; Faheem Majeed, artist, educator, curator, community facilitator, and co-director of the Floating Museum; and is moderated by Skyla S. Hearn, Chief Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at the DuSable Museum of African American History.

From the Archive (October 20, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.): This portion of the program includes a series of presentations exploring historic artistic interventions on the South Side, including examinations of the Black film community and Black feminism.

Panel: Shaping the South Side through Art and Activism (October 20, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.): Artists at the frontlines of activist organizing have been a consistent characteristic of how Chicago's South Side communities have operated, whether it's 1968 or 2018. For this panel, artists, activists, and scholars come together to discuss the ways that art and activism have intersected in Chicago over the decades and what it looks like today. The panel includes Page May, founder, Assata's Daughters; Monica Trinidad, For the People Artists Collective; Ayana Contreras, host of Reclaimed Soul on Vocalo; Abdul Alkalimat, University of Illinois; and is moderated by Tracey Matthews, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago.

A full schedule of events and registration information can be viewed [HERE](#).

3-D Doings Symposium

October 25–26, 2018

Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College

Event is free and open to the public

This two-day symposium brings together many of the artist exhibiting in *3-D Doings: The Imagist Object in Chicago Art, 1964–1980*, the first in-depth exploration of the overall affinity of Imagist artists for objects. Through panel discussions and gallery talks, the artists engage in conversation with one another and with audience members to create oral histories about their work and Chicago in the 1960s and '70s. Transcripts from the symposium will form part of the forthcoming exhibition catalogue.

Dialogue (October 25 at 6:00 p.m.): A conversation with artist Art Green and Skidmore College Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Flip Phillips.

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Dialogues (October 26 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.): Gallery talk and exhibition walkthrough with artists Sarah Canright, Art Green, Lorri Gunn, Philip Hanson, Gladys Nilsson, and Suellen Rocca. Followed by a panel discussion with the artists, moderated by exhibition co-curator Ian Berry.

Chicago New Media Symposium
November 1, 2018, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Gallery 400

The Video Game Art Gallery hosts a one-day symposium, featuring artists and scholars in conversation about Chicago's history of new media between 1950 and 2000. Confirmed speakers include Christiane Paul, Curator of New Media Art at the Whitney Museum; Oliver Grau, founder in the field of Media Art Histories and faculty at Danube University in Austria; Ellen Sandor, artist and co-editor of *Women in New Media Arts: Perspectives on Innovative Collaboration*; and Dan Sandin, Professor Emeritus of the School of Art & Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he co-founded and co-directed the Electronic Visualization Laboratory.

Art Against the Flow Summit
November 1–4, 2018
The Ace Hotel (Chicago) and other off-site locations

This November, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art hosts the “Art Against the Flow Summit,” an international convening interrogating the theme of “place” in the context of the outsider art genre. The panels, tours, and special events explore the impact of outsider artists on the places in which they worked, the specific localities that have nurtured outsider and self-taught artists, how and why art springs up in certain locations, and the unique local factors in Chicago and elsewhere that influenced the presentation of non-mainstream art nationally and internationally. The Summit is being organized in conjunction with Intuit's exhibition, *Chicago Calling: Art Against the Flow*, open through January 6, 2019.

Schedule highlights include:

Chicago Collections Crawl (November 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.): Explore the private collections of three prominent outsider art collectors in Chicago.

Keynote Address (November 2, at 8:45 a.m.): Kenneth Burkhart and Lisa Stone, co-curators of *Chicago Calling: Art Against the Flow*, and William Swislow (writer and art collector), curator of *Chicago We Own It*.

Chicago & Self-Taught Art (November 2, at 10:00 a.m.): Delve into the fabric of Chicago. This conversation examines how the cultural conditions of a particular locale support the development and acceptance of new art forms.

Chicago We Own It: Style and Sensibility in Chicago Collections (November 3, at 8:30 a.m.): Explore the space, place, and collectors' personalities as manifest in the art collections in and around Chicago. Speakers include Patric McCoy (art collector and founder of Diasporal Rhythms), Michael Noland (artist and collector), Jan Petry (art collector), and Cleo Wilson (art collector). William Swislow moderates.

Future of the Genre: What's Next?: (November 3, at 2:00 p.m.): Moderated by Leisa Rundquist (Associate Professor of Art History at UNC Asheville), panelists explore the debate between the “insider” vs. the “outsider,” how they embrace non-mainstream work, and how the art market has impacted

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representation of non-mainstream artists. Speakers include Carl Hammer (Chicago gallerist), Jenenne Whitfield (Chief Executive Officer of the Heidelberg Project), and Randy Vick (Professor of Art Therapy at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago).

Registration required, with fees for select ticketed events. Full details about and costs of attendance can be viewed [HERE](#).

Where the Future Came From Symposium
November 1-2, 2018
Conaway Center at Columbia College Chicago
Event is free and open to the public

Where the Future Came From is a symposium and exhibition focusing on the role of feminist artist-run activities in Chicago from the late 19th century to the present. This event kicks off a three-month exhibition at Columbia College's Glass Curtain Gallery that explores Chicago's deep history of artist-run activities and contextualizes the role of feminism within that history. The exhibition will open on November 2, 2018.

Keynote Address (November 1, at 5:30 p.m.): The symposium will kick off with a keynote conversation bringing together Lynne Warren, Adjunct Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and Courtney Fink, Director, Common Field, to discuss feminism, artist-run projects, and money.

Discussions and Workshops (November 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.): A day-long program featuring presentations by Estelle Carol of Chicago Women's Graphics Collective, Arlene Turner-Crawford of Sapphire & Crystals, Mary Ellen Croteau of SisterSerpents, and Beate Minkovski of Woman Made Gallery, as well as a panel discussion with members of current feminist artist-run projects, including Gloria Talemantas of Mujeres Mutantes, Jennifer Sova from The Overlook Place, and Luz Magdaleno from Brown and Proud Press, and moderated by Kate Hadley Toftness, Director, Chicago Archives + Artists Project.

As the history of artist-run projects in Chicago is one that often lives in the memories of the people who ran and experienced the projects, the public is invited to bring related materials, ephemera, and stories of feminist artist-run projects to share during the symposium's workshops and throughout the duration of the exhibition.

The Designs of African American Life
November 2-3, 2018
Chicago Cultural Center
Event is free and open to the public

African Americans have taken up design work and entered the design professions not only to earn a living but also to elevate the value of African American life over and against the racism that has devalued that life from the age of Atlantic slavery to our present moment of global capitalism. Yet, in several critical respects, we have only begun to reckon with design as a practice for African American life and as a mode for African American living.

Marking the opening of *African American Designers in Chicago: Art, Commerce, and the Politics of Race*, this symposium gathers scholars and design practitioners to address aspects of design in African American life. While the exhibition celebrates the works of Chicago-based graphic artists in fields ranging from sign-painting to doll-making, the symposium goes beyond Chicago and beyond the graphic arts in order to take stock of current work in the field and to explore new directions for research and practice. As they advance new narratives and methodologies that grasp the history of African American design, speakers illuminate critical problems at the intersection of art, politics, and everyday life.

Schedule highlights include:

Keynote Address: Common Things Surprise Us: Black Chicago's Artists and Models Balls and the Politics of Middlebrow(n) Taste (November 2, at 5:00 p.m.): Jacqueline Goldsby, Yale University.

Panel Discussion (November 3, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.): A discussion on the power of print, with Brenna Greer, Wellesley College; Joshua Clark Davis, University of Baltimore; and Amy Mooney, Columbia College.

Panel Discussion (November 3, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.): A discussion on aesthetics and being, with Elspeth Brown, University of Toronto; Romi Crawford, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Allyson Nadia Field, University of Chicago.

Closing Keynote Address: Craft/Freedom: Regarding the Value(s) of African American Design (November 3, at 3:30 p.m.): Adam Green, University of Chicago.

A full schedule of events can be viewed [HERE](#).

Chicago Design: Histories and Narratives, Questions and Methods

November 8–10, 2018

Art Institute of Chicago

Event is free and open to the public

The first international scholarly conference devoted to the subject, Chicago Design: Histories and Narratives, Questions and Methods is convened jointly by the University of Illinois at Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Covering the period between the late 19th century and the end of the 20th century, this conference brings together scholars working on all aspects of the city's design history, including the intersection of design with textiles and sculpture; important business sectors such as the furniture and printing industries as well as the numerous large-scale manufacturers and distributors of consumer goods based in the city; and established fields of design production such as graphic design, industrial design, and architecture.

The conference aims not only to expand the existing body of scholarship on key figures in the history of Chicago design, but also to construct a broader, more diverse picture of the range of movements, people, and forces considered a part of the city's distinctive design tradition. Furthermore, the conference specifically engages the question of the relationship between the various design practices under consideration and the city itself in an effort to examine the concept of place-specific design identities. In this sense, the conference aims to advance both the history of Chicago design and the fields of art, architecture, and design history more broadly.

A full schedule of events and information can be viewed [HERE](#).

The Figure, Humor and the Chicago Imagists

December 16, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elmhurst College and Elmhurst Art Museum

Event is free; Registration required

The Figure, Humor and the Chicago Imagists is a full-day symposium that explores works by the Chicago Imagists and their relationship to the tradition of American figurative art with specific emphasis on the ways

in which the Imagists used humor in their depictions of the figure. The symposium features presentations on the topic and the opportunity to view the extraordinary Elmhurst College Imagist Art Collection on view at the Elmhurst Art Museum.

The event features an introduction by original Hairy Who member and curator of the Elmhurst College Art Collection Suellen Rocca, and a presentation by writer and curator Dan Nadel, who recently organized *What Nerve! Alternative Figures in American Art, 1960 to the Present*. The viewing of the collection will be followed by a panel discussion with participants to be announced.

Additional information and registration can be found [HERE](#).

About Art Design Chicago

Art Design Chicago is a spirited celebration of the unique and vital role Chicago plays as America's crossroads of creativity and commerce. Initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art, this citywide partnership of more than 75 cultural organizations explores Chicago's art and design legacy and continued impact with more than 30 exhibitions, hundreds of events as well as the creation of several scholarly publications and a four-part television series presented throughout 2018.

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About Terra Foundation for American Art

Since it was established in 1978, the Terra Foundation for American Art has been one of the leading foundations focused on the historical art of the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, it is committed to fostering exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of American art among national and international audiences. To further cross-cultural dialogue on American art, the foundation supports and collaborates on innovative exhibitions, research, and educational programs. Implicit in such activities is the belief that art has the potential both to distinguish cultures and to unite them. The foundation also provides opportunities for interaction and study through the presentation and ongoing development of its own art collection in Chicago, recognizing the importance of experiencing original works of art. www.TerraAmericanArt.org

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