



The MacArthur  
Fellows Program  
at 40

art &  
social  
change

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## Twenty-eight MacArthur Fellows selected for *Toward Common Cause*

### Multi-site exhibition organized by the Smart Museum of Art to open in summer 2021

Twenty-eight MacArthur Fellows have been selected to participate in *Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40*, an expansive multi-venue exhibition organized by the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago in collaboration with more than two dozen exhibition, programmatic, and research partner organizations across Chicago. The exhibition, which celebrates the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program, will encompass a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practice, including community-based projects realized in public spaces as well as solo and group presentations in multiple museum, gallery, and community spaces. The full list of participating artists is below and online at the exhibition website, [towardcommoncause.org](http://towardcommoncause.org).

“This project began three years ago with a sense of purpose that has only grown more urgent. Art is a vital social resource, especially in times defined by division, pandemic, and vitriol. In the midst of multiple calamities, I have been afforded the unimaginable privilege of working with this group of artists as they met and mentored youth, forged alliances to confront the disproportionate impacts of environmental pollution, and prepared to share their creative vision with all of us across Chicago. Their work has kept me from giving in to despair and offers a daily reminder that there is beauty and goodness in the world, that individual and collective action can change people’s lives,” said **Abigail Winograd**, MacArthur Fellows Program Fortieth Anniversary Exhibition Curator at the Smart Museum.

*Toward Common Cause* will open in summer 2021. The exhibition uses the idea of “the commons” to explore the current socio-political moment, in which questions of inclusion, exclusion, ownership, and rights of access are constantly being challenged across a wide array of human endeavors. It will be realized through collaboration with multiple exhibition sites as well as programmatic partners in neighborhoods across the city. The current list of partners is available below.

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“The MacArthur Fellows Program is so pleased to support this ambitious exhibition as a way of connecting the work of MacArthur Fellows with local communities in the city of Chicago, MacArthur’s home city. Coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program, which recognizes and supports creative pursuits across all fields and disciplines, the exhibition will address themes and issues that reach across disciplines and approaches. In the face of today’s unprecedented challenges, *Toward Common Cause* makes a strong case for the vital role of creative thinking in imagining a better, more equitable future,” said **Marlies Carruth**, MacArthur Fellows Program Director. “*Toward Common Cause* is a profoundly collaborative project and the Smart Museum is thrilled to move beyond its own walls in partnership with these exhibition, program, and research partners across Chicago. I hope that the exhibition will foster broader and deeper relationships between artists, institutions, and communities while creating a space for us to reflect on what it means to support a vibrant cultural community for all,” said **Amina Dickerson**, Co-Interim Director of the Smart Museum.

Additional details about *Toward Common Cause*—including exhibition dates, visitor information for each venue, related programs, and a full checklist of works and projects—will be made available at a later date through the full companion website, [towardcommoncause.org](http://towardcommoncause.org).

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## Participating artists

Njideka Akunyili Crosby, b. 1983, Enugu, Nigeria; MacArthur Fellow, 2017  
Ida Applebroog, b. 1929, Bronx, New York, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1998  
Dawoud Bey, b. 1953, Queens, New York, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2017  
Mark Bradford, b. 1961, Los Angeles, California, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2009  
Mel Chin, b. 1951, Houston, Texas; MacArthur Fellow, 2019  
Nicole Eisenman, b. 1965, Verdun, France; MacArthur Fellow, 2015  
Wendy Ewald, b. 1951, Detroit, Michigan, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1992  
LaToya Ruby Frazier, b. 1982, Braddock, Pennsylvania, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2015  
Jeffrey Gibson, b. 1972, Native American, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Cherokee; MacArthur Fellow, 2019  
Guillermo Gómez-Peña, b. 1955, Mexico City, Mexico; MacArthur Fellow, 1991  
Gary Hill, b. 1951, Seattle, Washington, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1998  
David Hammons, b. 1943, Springfield, Illinois, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1991  
Alfredo Jaar, b. 1956, Santiago de Chile, Chile; MacArthur Fellow, 1998  
Toba Khedoori, b. 1964, Sydney, Australia; MacArthur Fellow, 2002  
An-My Lê, b. 1960, Saigon, Vietnam; MacArthur Fellow, 2012  
Whitfield Lovell, b. 1959, New York, New York, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2007  
Rick Lowe, b. 1961, Alabama, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2014  
Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, b. 1961, Madrid, Spain; MacArthur Fellow, 2001  
Kerry James Marshall, b. 1955 Birmingham, Alabama, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1997  
Julie Mehretu, b. 1970, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; MacArthur Fellow, 2005  
Amalia Mesa-Bains, b. 1943, Santa Clara, California, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1992  
Trevor Paglen, b. 1974, Maryland, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2017  
Fazal Sheikh, b. 1965, New York, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2005  
Shahzia Sikander, b. 1969, Lahore, Pakistan; MacArthur Fellow, 2006

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Kara Walker, b. 1969, California, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1997  
Carrie Mae Weems, b. 1953, Oregon, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 2013  
Fred Wilson, b. 1954, New York, United States; MacArthur Fellow, 1999  
Xu Bing, b. 1955, Chongqing, China; MacArthur Fellow, 1999

## **Partner organizations**

### **Exhibition venues**

Arts + Public Life  
BBF Family Services  
Chicago Housing Authority  
DuSable Museum of African American History  
Hyde Park Art Center  
Jane Addams Hull-House Museum  
Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts  
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago  
Museum of Contemporary Photography  
National Museum of Mexican Art  
National Public Housing Museum  
Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society  
Newberry Library  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Smart Museum of Art  
South Side Community Art Center  
Stony Island Arts Bank  
Sweet Water Foundation  
Weinberg/Newton Gallery

### **Community and programmatic partners**

Casa Michoacán  
Centro Romero  
Columbia College Chicago Diane Dammeyer Initiative  
Public Media Institute  
SkyART

### **University of Chicago and research partners**

Center for Latin American Studies  
Center for Native American and Indigenous Research, Northwestern University  
Department of Anthropology  
School of Freshwater Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry  
Harris School of Public Policy  
Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation  
D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Newberry Library

Office of Civic Engagement  
Open Lands  
Pozen Family Center for Human Rights  
Program on Global Environment  
UChicago Arts  
Water Lab

### **About Toward Common Cause**

*Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40* is organized by the Smart Museum of Art in collaboration with exhibition, programmatic, and research partners across Chicago. It is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

## MacArthur Foundation

Additional support for individual projects has been provided by Allstate; a Mellon Collaborative Fellowship in Arts Practice and Scholarship at the Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry; the Visiting Fellows Program at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society; and the Smart Museum's SmartPartners.



*Toward Common Cause* is curated by Abigail Winograd, MacArthur Fellows Program Fortieth Anniversary Exhibition Curator, Smart Museum of Art.

### **About the Smart Museum of Art**

The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago is a site for rigorous inquiry and exchange that encourages the examination of complex issues through the lens of art objects and artistic practice. Through strong community and scholarly partnerships, the Museum incorporates diverse ideas, identities, and experiences into its exhibitions and collections, academic initiatives, and public programming. The Smart first opened in 1974. Admission is always free.

### **Smart Museum of Art**

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