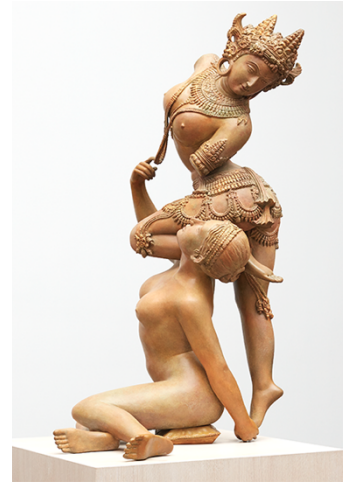


***Toward Common Cause* opens with three exhibitions featuring MacArthur Fellows**



Chicago-based photographer **Dawoud Bey** shows portraits of South Side youth at **Arts + Public Life's** Arts Incubator (May 21–August 28)

Jeffrey Gibson reflects on representations of Indigenous people in cultural institutions, in a new commission at the **Newberry Library** (May 28–September 18)

An-My Lê and **Shahzia Sikander** probe monuments and identity with recent work at the **Museum of Contemporary Photography** (June 3–August 29)

CHICAGO—Three exhibitions marking the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program open across the city this spring, ushering in the first wave of projects presented in conjunction with ***Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40***. MacArthur Fellows **Dawoud Bey** (class of 2017), **Jeffrey Gibson** (2019), **An-My Lê** (2012), and **Shahzia Sikander** (2006) are among the 29 artists participating in *Toward Common Cause*, 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, including UChicago's **Arts + Public Life**, the **Museum of Contemporary Photography** (MoCP) at Columbia College Chicago, and the **Newberry Library**.

The exhibition, which celebrates the 40th anniversary of the MacArthur Fellows Program, encompasses 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. Additional initiatives will open later this summer and into the fall. The full list of participating artists and other details are available online at the exhibition website:

towardcommoncause.org.

What's on this spring

Dawoud Bey: Portraits from Chicago (1993–2001)

May 21–August 28, 2021

Arts + Public Life, Arts Incubator, 301 East Garfield Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60637

Arts + Public Life opens *Toward Common Cause* with an exhibition of works by Chicago-based Dawoud Bey, who has photographed South Side youth across decades of artistic practice. In the 1990s, he invited them into his studio, seated them against single-hued studio walls, and fragmented their faces across multiple 20 x 24-inch Polaroids. In the early 2000s, he took street photographs of South Side youth as he came across them on sidewalks and steps. As a whole, these portraits make visible a group who are not fully recognized by society, activating the sitters' inner worlds for viewers to contemplate.

Jeffrey Gibson: Sweet Bitter Love

May 28–September 18, 2021

Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610

Sweet Bitter Love presents Jeffrey Gibson's reflections on representations of Indigenous people in cultural institutions. Gibson, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and of Cherokee descent, responds to nineteenth-century portraits of Indigenous people in the Newberry Library's collection. His paintings and wallpaper refute ethnographic symbolism with vibrant, glittering layers. Surrounding documentation of ceremonial gifts acquired by the Field Museum in 1991, Gibson's works question our expectations for what qualifies as cultural artifacts and the institutional practices surrounding their care. As they enter into critical dialogue across the gallery space, these art objects collectively deconstruct myths about Indigenous cultures and attest to Native persistence.

Much Unseen is Also Here: An-My Lê and Shahzia Sikander

June 3–August 29, 2021

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago, 600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605

Much Unseen is Also Here brings together the works of two major artists who both consider the theater of the landscape, monumentality, cultural history, and

representation. Probing monuments and identity, An-My Lê and Shahzia Sikander explore history's embeddedness in our present. Lê's *Silent General* (2015–ongoing) presents large-scale views of places and people in the contemporary American landscape, while Sikander uses sculpture, drawings, and animation to examine representations of intersectional femininity that is prompted by questions of who monuments historically depict.

Much Unseen is Also Here has been generously supported through the Terra Foundation for American Art.

All three projects are curated by **Abigail Winograd**, MacArthur Fellows Program Fortieth Anniversary Exhibition Curator, Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago.

About the partners

Arts + Public Life (APL) is a dynamic hub of exploration, expression, and exchange that centers people of color and fosters neighborhood vibrancy through the arts on the South Side of Chicago. As a neighborhood platform for arts and culture in Washington Park, APL provides residencies for Black and Brown artists and creative entrepreneurs, arts education for youth, and artist-led programming and exhibitions.

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Founded in 1887, The **Newberry Library** supports and inspires research, teaching, and learning in the humanities. Our collection—some 1.6 million books, 600,000 maps, and 5 million manuscript pages—is a portal to more than six centuries of human history, from the Middle Ages to the present. We connect the public with this history in the Newberry's reading rooms, exhibition galleries, program spaces, classrooms, and online digital resources.

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The **Museum of Contemporary Photography** at Columbia College Chicago is the world's premier college art museum dedicated to photography. As an international hub, the MoCP generates ideas and provokes dialogue among students, artists and diverse communities through groundbreaking exhibitions and programming. Now in its 45th exhibition season, the Museum of Contemporary Photography cultivates a

deeper understanding of the artistic, cultural and political roles of photography in our world today. Learn more at MoCP.org.

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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 engagement, and public programming. The Smart first opened in 1974. Admission is always free.

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Support

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**MacArthur
Foundation**

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Images

Dawoud Bey, *Muhammad*, 2001, Chromogenic print. Courtesy of Dawoud Bey and the DePaul Art Museum.

Jeffrey Gibson, *Chief Pretty Eagle*, 2021, Cotton Rag Paper, Inkjet Print, Vintage Beaded Eyeglass Case (Glass Beads, Polyester, Thread, Suede), Vintage Beaded Barrette (Glass Beads, Polyester, Thread), Vintage Papers, Found Pin, Glass Beads, Glitter, Urethane, Acrylic Paint. Courtesy of the artist and Kavi Gupta, Chicago. Photography by John Lusic.

Shahzia Sikander, *Promiscuous Intimacies*, 2020, Patinated bronze, edition of 5 with 2 APs. © Shahzia Sikander. Photo: Jason Wyche, New York. Courtesy: the artist and Sean Kelly, New York.