

MICHIGAN AVENUE

CHERYL POPE TALKS UPCOMING PROJECTS AND HER CURRENT OBSESSIONS

By J.P. Anderson | December 20, 2017 | [People](#)

Talk about an artist who kicks ass: Hyper-stylish Palos Park native Cheryl Pope is both an adjunct professor in the Fashion Design Department at the School of the Art Institute and a champion Golden Gloves boxer who regularly spars with guys who outweigh her by 60 pounds.

“My grandfather won the Golden Gloves in Chicago, so I wanted to continue that history,” explains Pope, adding, “[I also] wanted to knock somebody out.” When the 37-year-old isn’t teaching boxing at Soho House, she channels her creative energies into projects like a just-wrapped New York pop-up show of varsity jackets emblazoned with slogans like “I am the people.” As Pope prepares to unveil her latest work, a project for the Year of Public Art both inside and outside Edgewater’s Broadway Armory Park, she shares some of her current obsessions, in Chicago and beyond. cherylpope.net



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

“I work out to old R&B. When I’m hitting the bag, it’s just like super sexy, mainstream old-school stuff: Anthony Hamilton, Al Green, Marvin Gaye.”

“I love what Sir & Madame is doing; they’re smart in how they’re representing their clothing and branding it—and they represent Chicago.” *5225 S. Harper Court, 773.241.5225, sirandmadame.com*

“There’s a spot at Starved Rock State Park where I go cliff jumping. [I like it out there] because you get more highs and lows in the landscape—it’s a beautiful forest.” *starvedrockstatepark.org*

“Palais de Tokyo in Paris creates an environment where you want to hang out—to me that’s how art should be.” *palaisdetokyo.com*

“I’ve been going to Avec forever. It’s super-minimal; I love the wood seating, and I always get the dates.” *615 W. Randolph St., 312.377.2002, avecrestaurant.com*

“I have a ’71 Mercury Montego, which merges a sedan and a muscle car and is like the all-American experience of driving. It’s fuel-injected, so it wants to go.”