

# Chicago Tribune

## 10 things to get excited about in Chicago's bountiful art scene

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Danh Vo, "We the People."

The leaves are about to get crunchy and the air's already feeling crisp — fall is almost here, and with it comes a bountiful harvest of new art exhibitions and events. Here are 10 not-to-be-missed shows coming up.

**Expo Chicago:** Chicago's new Tony Karman-led international contemporary arts fair has a good shot at doing what Art Chicago/Next ultimately couldn't — attract a solid lineup of top-notch galleries, artists and events while making the most of Chicago's vast cultural offerings. Expo's luxe Jeanne Gang-designed interior; an exhibition of works by Laura Letinsky, Kerry James Marshall and other leading Chicago artists curated by Dawoud Bey; a special Maya Lin video project; and a recreation of the late Gordon Matta-Clark's infamous "Garbage Wall" — made from materials dredged from the Chicago River — plus a talk by art critic Jerry Saltz (Thursday) offer plenty to do and see, even if you're not there to buy. *Sept. 20-23, Festival Hall at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave. \$20, four-day pass \$65; [expochicago.com](http://expochicago.com)*

**Shimon Attie:** *The Neighbor Next Door:* In 1995, American multimedia artist Attie projected World War II-era footage — all of it shot by people hiding from the Nazis — onto the sidewalks of Amsterdam. Now, the Block Museum has collaborated with Attie to bring this haunting project back to life as an installation for the Museum's Alsdorf Gallery. *Through Dec. 9, Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. 847-491-4000 or [blockmuseum.northwestern.edu](http://blockmuseum.northwestern.edu)*

**'Detroit, USA: Material, Site, Narrative':** Detroit's become an emblem for the American city in decline, but there's a lot more happening there than meets the eye. The Motor City's cultural scene is thriving, in part because Detroit's artists like to collaborate, and their projects are often centered on community development and urban rejuvenation. This show surveys a range of such works alongside responses to the city from student artists at the School of the Art Institute. *Through Jan. 5, SAIC Sullivan Galleries, 33 S. State St., Seventh Floor. 312.629.6635 or [saic.edu/exhibitions](http://saic.edu/exhibitions)*

**'Afterimage':** The legacy of Chicago's trend-bucking Imagist artists — Roger Brown, Ed Paschke and Jim Nutt chief among them — still runs deep here, as this group show of works in all media by 24 younger Chicago artists attests. See for yourself how imagism's penchant for perverse humor, surreal psychic landscapes and lurid color palettes plays out — albeit in more lighthearted fashion — in works by **Justin Cooper**, Lilli Carre, David Leggett and others. *Through Nov. 18, DePaul Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton Ave. 773.325.7506 or [museums.depaul.edu](http://museums.depaul.edu)*

**Danh Vo:** At age 4, Vo and his family fled Vietnam in a homemade boat and were eventually rescued by Danish sailors. Vo grew up in Denmark and now lives in Berlin, but his sculptures and installations still reflect on that early experience of being adrift, geographically and otherwise. Vo will have two major presentations in Chicago this fall: The Renaissance Society will show all-new works, and is collaborating with the Art Institute of Chicago to present outdoor sculptures from Vo's "We the People" — a Statue of Liberty recreated in parts, at full scale, using the same techniques as the original — but this time, everything's been made in China. *Sept. 23–Dec. 16, The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, 5811 S. Ellis Ave. 773-702-8670 or [renaissancesociety.org](http://renaissancesociety.org); Sept. 23–Oct. 28 in The Art Institute's Pritzker Garden, moving to the Bluhm Family Terrace Nov. 8–April, 111 S. Michigan Ave., 312-443-3600 or [artic.edu](http://artic.edu)*

**'Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects':** The first exhibition devoted to the work of Studio Gang, led by Jeanne Gang, the architect behind Chicago's lauded Aqua Tower, also tries to impart a sense of what working in a design studio looks and feels like. SGA created an innovative installation environment modeled after their own workspace, which traces a project's development over time, from the point of view of the architects themselves. *Sept. 24–Feb. 24, Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600 or [artic.edu](http://artic.edu)*

**'Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec: Bivouac':** The Bouroullec brothers design everyday home and office furniture — chairs, sofas, shelving units — with an eye to making them more dynamic,

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adaptable and yes, beautiful. In their hands, felt-covered storage systems look (and act) like floating cumulus clouds, leather-bound pendant lights writhe, Hydra-like, across ceilings and walls and extra-big, ultracushiony quilted sofas become rooms (or wombs?) of their own. Organized by the France's Centre Pompidou-Metz, this exhibition traces 15 years of design by the Bouroullecs, who describe the environments they create as "microarchitecture." *Oct. 20-Jan. 20, Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Avenue, 312-280-2660 or [mcchicago.org](http://mcchicago.org)*

**Steve McQueen:** No, no, it's not the legendary actor who starred in "Bullitt." This Steve McQueen is the British video artist and filmmaker who's been an art-world star for years — he won the prestigious Turner Prize in 1999 — but has only recently gained widespread recognition as the director of the provocative feature films "Hunger" (2008) and "Shame" (2011), the latter starring Michael Fassbender. The Art Institute is the organizer and sole U.S. venue for this, McQueen's first-ever survey. And while you're here, check out the museum's newly renovated and expanded galleries for Greek, Roman, and Byzantine art, scheduled to open Nov. 11. *Oct. 21-Jan. 6, Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600 or [artic.edu](http://artic.edu)*