

2024 Exhibitions

UIC GALLERY 400



SPIRIT OF THE AYAHUASCA VINE, THANK YOU FOR GUIDING ME THROUGH THE TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE. I CAME TO YOU WHEN MY BODY WAS INJURED AND COULDN'T HEAL. YOU GAVE ME INSIGHT, AND THE HOPE I NEEDED TO CARRY ON. MORE THAN THAT, YOU TEACH ME A WAY TO MOVE THROUGH THE WORLD. FOREVER GRATEFUL. SAN ANTONIO, TX. 2018



About UIC Gallery 400

The contemporary art space at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Gallery 400 supports contemporary art, architecture, and design through exhibitions, lectures, publications, and programs that prioritize interpretative reflection and critical inquiry. Gallery 400's mission is to be a contemporary art hub for social interaction, transformative experience, and multi-dimensional learning. Showcasing four to seven temporary exhibitions per year, Gallery 400 consistently presents acclaimed public programs, and hosts the Voices Lecture Series, regularly putting contemporary artists in conversation with the public.

Operating within the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts at the UIC—the largest university in Chicago and one of the most diverse in the US—Gallery 400 endeavors to make the arts and its practitioners accessible to a broad spectrum of the public and to cultivate a variety of cultural and intellectual perspectives.

Hours

Tuesday–Friday, 10am–5pm
Saturday, 12–5pm

University of Illinois Chicago
400 South Peoria Street
Chicago, IL 60607
312-996-6114

Admission to the gallery is FREE.

UIC Gallery 400 is wheelchair accessible. Audio descriptions are available in the exhibition. If you have specific access questions or needs, please call 312-996-6114 or email gallery400@uic.edu.

gallery400.uic.edu

[@gallery400](https://www.instagram.com/gallery400)



Front: Daniel Vilchis, *Ex-Voto to the Spirit of Ayahuasca Vine*, 2022. Courtesy the artist and the NMSU Permanent Art Collection. Image courtesy of Trey Broomfield



Contemporary Ex-Voto: Devotion Beyond Medium installation view at NMSU Art Museum. Image courtesy of Trey Broomfield

***Contemporary Ex-Votos: Devotion Beyond Medium*
January 12–March 16, 2024**

Connecting historical and contemporary conversations, *Contemporary Ex-Votos* questions the function and aesthetics of faith in the Americas. This traveling exhibition, curated by Dr. Emmanuel Ortega, Marilynn Thoma Scholar and Assistant Professor in Art of the Spanish Americas at UIC, comes to UIC Gallery 400 from the New Mexico State University Art Museum, where it originated and which holds the largest permanent collection of 19th-20th century retablos in the US. Primarily painted on tin or found materials, ex-votos are devotional paintings depicting miracles and acts of divine intervention. These understudied works are investigated and responded to by contemporary Latinx artists, and the result is a contemplation of faith and devotion as they are situated between geographies, politics, identities, and time. Part of the exhibition is presented at Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, UIC.

Contemporary Ex-Votos: Devotion Beyond Medium originated at the NMSU University Art Museum. This exhibition is made possible by support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Carl & Marilynn Thoma Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Major support for the exhibition at UIC Gallery 400 is provided by

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**UIC MFA Thesis Exhibition
March 26–April 20, 2024**

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view works by ten emerging artists completing their degrees in Studio Arts, Photography, Moving Image, and New Media Arts UIC. The UIC MFA program provides a rigorous theoretical and conceptual background to augment studio practices and develop work within an interdisciplinary context that reflects the global art world. UIC's School of Art & Art History's commitment to interweaving artistic praxis with issues of social justice and civic engagement provides an additional framework for these artists

***The Mask of Prosperity*
May 10–August 2, 2024**

Presenting contemporary artists working in various media, *The Mask of Prosperity* takes shape around the varied meanings of inheritance, offering a look into its integral role in the organization of life across language, memory, morals, habits, and knowledge.



Above: cameron clayborn, *Homegrown #5*, 2022. Courtesy the artist and Simone Subal Gallery, New York. Included in *The Mask of Prosperity*

Curated by Gallery 400 Assistant Director Denny Mwaura, the exhibition probes which legacies we choose to acquire, hold on to, or reject within our cultural imagination and kinship structures. It illustrates how inheritance can be used to build a livable or unlivable life and its capacity to be an agent of transformation in private and social life. *The Mask of Prosperity* develops from everyday conversations with some of the featured artists. It is presented as a prompt to think through the ways we come into possession of things and their impressions on our sense of self.

Learning Together: Art Education and Community
September 6–December 14, 2024

Over the last century, Chicago has led the nation in progressive arts education for pre-K-12 students, as teachers and their students linked art education to movements for social justice, access, and self-determination. In the first broad telling of this history, Gallery 400's *Learning Together* centers the progressive art pedagogy of a diverse group of Chicago artist educators from the mid-1960s through the 2010s, highlighting the unique pedagogical practices of educators working across Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. Artworks co-created by students and educators, sketchbooks, ephemera, and images of public artworks in situ in and around K-12 schools are paired with



Bernard Williams and John Pitman Weber, *Urban World at the Crossroads*, 1997. Mural at Orr Academy High School. Courtesy the artists. Included in *Learning Together: Art Education and Community*

teaching artists' artwork inspired by their work with Chicago's youth. A teaching toolkit created by students in UIC's Art Education Program Education accompanies the exhibition.

Learning Together: Art Education and Community is organized by Jessica Hough, Denny Mwaura, and Lorelei Stewart. It is part of Art Design Chicago, a citywide collaboration initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art that highlights the city's artistic heritage and creative communities. *Learning Together* is presented in partnership with the exhibition *Radical Craft: Arts Education at Hull-House, 1889-1935* at UIC Jane Addams Hull-House Museum.