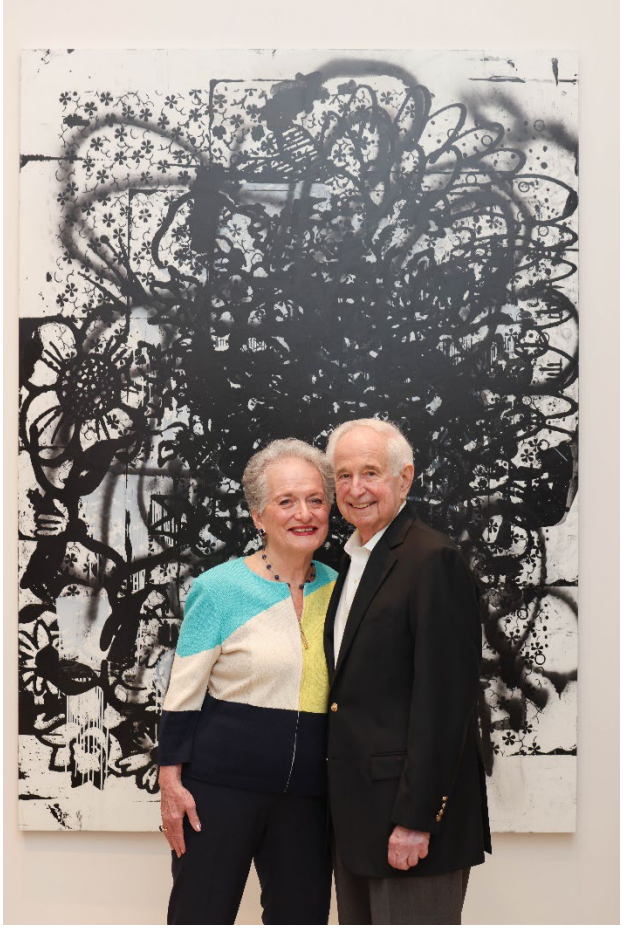
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Sandra and Jack Guthman with Christopher Wool's *Untitled* (1995–96), part of the promised gift to the MCA Chicago's permanent collection. Photo: Jeremy Lawson.

Multimedia link:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ctgya9a7808heo1738fpb/AASYIShuPRLsA_23PLnwvEE?rlkey=qjyqjrybucw8ssw28ul5v5e5w&st=iwjygcqs&dl=0

MCA Chicago Announces Historic Gift of Sixty-Five Artworks from Jack and Sandra Guthman

CHICAGO—The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA) is pleased to announce a promised gift of sixty-five objects from Chicago-based art collectors Jack and Sandra Guthman. Made in honor of the museum's 60th anniversary, the Guthman Gift includes paintings, photography, works on paper, and sculptures, and features the work of fifty-four artists, thirteen of whom are new to the MCA Collection. With this latest gift, the couple's total donations to the MCA now number 130 works, among the largest ever given by donors in the museum's history.

"Together, Jack and Sandy have helped shape Chicago's cultural life through their collecting, advocacy, and longstanding engagement with artists and institutions," Pritzker Director Madeleine Grynsztejn said. "To be entrusted with this tremendous gift is a great honor."

The Guthmans worked in tandem with MCA curatorial staff to assemble the gift, taking the MCA's collecting priorities into serious consideration. Twenty-three of the fifty-four artists included in the donation are artists of color and nineteen are women artists, advancing the museum's collection goals toward cultural and gender parity. The works more fully elucidate the oeuvres of many artists already held in the museum's permanent collection as well, enabling the museum to tell their stories with greater precision and detail. The Guthman Gift also reflects the couple's dedication to collecting and preserving Chicago's art history, including key Chicago-connected artists such as Pope.L, Christopher Wool, Dawoud Bey, Theaster Gates, and Bethany Collins. Rashid Johnson and Amanda Williams—both of whom will present solo exhibitions at the MCA in 2026 and 2027 respectively—are represented in the gift, as well.

"The significance of this promised gift, and the Guthmans' overall dedication to the MCA, is to be celebrated," Chief of Curatorial Affairs and Deputy Director Joey Orr said. "These artworks will not only help the MCA achieve its provenance goals—they will deepen and expand our publics' understanding of contemporary art, which is central to all we do. We're grateful for the Guthmans and their generosity."

Jack and Sandra Guthman made their first gift to the MCA in 1988 and have since held a close relationship with the MCA. In 1989, Jack Guthman joined the MCA Board of Trustees. In 2016, the couple made a gift comprising works by fifty women-identifying photographers in recognition of the MCA's 50th anniversary. Later in the year, an exhibition focused on the gift, *Woman With a Camera*, was presented in the Cohen and Stone Galleries.

"We are fortunate to have the opportunity to donate these works as the MCA marks its 60th anniversary and as Madeleine Grynsztejn steps down after a remarkable tenure as its Pritzker Director," the Guthmans commented. "We celebrate both the institution and the woman who has lifted it to a where it is today—a Chicago institution now acknowledged as a leader in the world of contemporary art."

ABOUT JACK AND SANDRA GUTHMAN

Jack Guthman's six-decade law practice spanned matters heard by state and local boards and commissions, the Illinois General Assembly, and the Congress of the United States. A substantial portion of this work consisted of representation of developers requiring zoning changes as a precondition to the development process.

Among the projects which received approval under his leadership are mega-developments such as Dearborn Park, Cityfront Center, 900 and 700 N. Michigan Avenue, Eugenie Court, the Peninsula Hotel and retail complex, Harper Court, Atrium Village, and several buildings, including the Accenture/Ogilvie Transportation Center complex, which spurred the development of the West Loop. Jack also guided the initial conversions of failing industrial buildings in both River North and the Clybourn Corridor to loft residential uses.

Civic, cultural, and institutional sites which bear his imprimatur include Millennium Park/Harris Theater for Music and Dance, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the Hyde Park Art Center and Theaster Gates's Art Bank, the expansions of Orchestra Hall and the Museum of Science and Industry, the Harold Washington Library and Northwestern, Stroger, and Swedish Covenant hospitals.

Jack is a founder of and Immediate Past Chair of the Chicago Architecture Biennial and continues

as a member of its board as well as the boards of the MCA Chicago and the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit. Prior cultural affiliations include serving as President of the Society of Contemporary Art of the Art Institute of Chicago and service on the boards of the Illinois Arts Council, United States Artists, the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, and the Chicago Architecture Center.

Jack's public service includes seventeen years as a member of the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals, the last twelve as its Chairman, and twenty-three years as an adjunct professor in the real estate program at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

Sandra Polk Guthman's contributions to both Chicago's business and arts/culture communities are legion.

Upon graduation from Wellesley College with a degree in Economics, Sandra returned to her hometown of Chicago to assume a position as a Systems Engineer at IBM, providing technical assistance to users of large computer systems. At the time, there were no women sales representatives in the company. Within a few years Sandra broke through that ceiling, soon thereafter becoming the first female sales manager in the company's mid-west region. She left the computer world in 1993, having risen to the position of Director of Marketing for IBM's nine-state mid-west region.

In her last years at IBM Sandra added the formidable task of rebuilding the then-languishing Polk Bros Foundation to her agenda. Under her leadership, the foundation became an increasingly important factor in the world of Chicago philanthropy, a trendsetter in the fields of education, health services availability, social services, and the arts, particularly arts education programs serving Chicago Public Schools and teacher training initiatives. This led to her retirement from IBM to take on the foundation's day-to-day operational leadership.

Sandra's contributions to Chicago's cultural institutions have been widely noted. Over the years her commitment to the city's not-for-profit sector was acknowledged by the organizations she served. In addition to her role as Chair of the Polk Bros Foundation, she chaired the boards of the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, WTTW/ WFMT, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. She was a founder of ChiArts, Chicago's only pre-professional public high school. Nor were her business acumen overlooked, as indicated by her tenure as Chair of the Chicago Network, the Civic Consulting Alliance, and twenty years of service—including five years as Chair—on the board of the Northern Funds, an affiliate of the Northern Trust Company. Sandra is one of the founders of the Harris Theater, and together the Guthmans sponsored the creation of the theater's Guthman Gallery, featuring works from their collection by Dawoud Bey, Kerry James Marshall, Dan Peterman, Laura Lettinsky, and others.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The MCA interweaves exhibitions, performances, collections, and educational programs while providing a place for audiences to contemplate and discuss contemporary art in pursuit of a creative and diverse future. The MCA believes in the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) as a platform to enact structural change. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue is open 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday to Sunday and Tuesdays from 10 am to 9 pm. Tuesday evenings (5-9 pm) are free for Illinois residents. The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission is free for all youth 18 and under, members of the military and veterans, and MCA members. Free admission for anyone 18 and under is generously

provided by the Lefkofsky Free 18 & Under Fund. Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at mcachicago.org or 312.280.2660.

MCA CHICAGO

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