Featured tonight

Katherine Darnstadt
Katherine is the founder of Latent Design, a progressive architecture and urbanism firm leveraging civic innovation and social impact to design more equitable spaces and systems. Since founding her practice in 2010, Katherine and her firm have prototyped new urban design systems to advance urban agriculture, support small business, created spaces for youth makers, advanced building innovation, and created public space frameworks. She currently teaches at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and previously at Northwestern University.

Zoë Ryan
Zoë Ryan is the John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago. A curator and author, her projects focus on exploring the impact of architecture and design on society. Her recent exhibitions include, In a Cloud, in a Wall, in a Chair: Six Modernists in Mexico at Midcentury (2019) and Past Forward: Architecture and Design at the Art Institute, a major installation of the modern and contemporary architecture and design collections (2017–ongoing). Ryan has taught graduate seminars on design history and theory at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Norman Teague, Moderator
Norman holds an MFA in Designed Objects from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and a BFA in Industrial Design from Columbia College Chicago. He was awarded the Claire Rosen and Samuel Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists in 2015 and is a creative collaborator in association with the exhibition design team of Ralph Applebaum & Associates (NY) and Chicago-based civic projects for the Obama Presidential Center scheduled to open in 2022.

Upcoming Conversations

April 26, 6pm
Erin Harkey, Deputy Commissioner, Programming, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events of the City of Chicago
Yohance Lacour, Entrepreneur, artist and activist

April 30, 6pm
Paola Aguirre, Founder/Principle at Borderless Studio
Obi Nwazota, Entrepreneur and owner of Orange Skin
The Design Museum of Chicago educates, inspires, and fosters innovation through design. They believe design has the fundamental capacity to improve the human condition, and strive to make it accessible to everyone through free exhibitions. The museum strives to meet people where they are, facilitating conversations around design with a variety of voices, backgrounds, and viewpoints. They believe that design is not just a single discipline or process, but rather a persistent element present in our everyday environments and experiences. designchicago.org

blkHaUS studios is a Chicago-based, socially-focused design studio dedicated to using design as an agent of change to uplift and transform marginal communities. They strive for our work and presence in the design profession to instigate greater inclusion of black and brown narratives in the history of design and promote design’s relevance to contemporary communities of color. blkHaUS feels design is a language that can be used as an agent of change. As makers and educators, they aim to develop educational pedagogies and creative methodologies, so that communities of color can thrive and be seated at the tables of power influencing contemporary urban and social design. blkhausstudios.com

Raising Products is possible due to support from the Terra Foundation for American Art. The Terra Foundation for American Art is dedicated to fostering exploration, understanding, and enjoyment of the visual arts of the United States for national and international audiences. Recognizing the importance of experiencing original works of art, the foundation provides opportunities for interaction and study, beginning with the presentation and growth of its own art collection in Chicago. To further cross-cultural dialogue on American art, the foundation supports and collaborates on innovative exhibitions, research, and educational programs. Implicit in such activities is the belief that art has the potential both to distinguish cultures and to unite them. terraamericanart.org

A special thank you to Stony Island Arts Bank, our original host!

Looking for ways to make immediate impact in communities discussed tonight? The Arts Leaders of Color Emergency Fund is directly supporting BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists AND administrators (consultants, facilitators, box office staff, seasonal/temporary employees, etc.) who have been financially impacted due to COVID-19. Learn more here.

On a local level, For the People Collective is working to offer emergency microgrants of up to $500 to Illinois-based artists and freelancers of color whose income has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund is available as funds become available. For the most up-to-date information about applying or donating, please visit www.forthepeoplecollective.org.