

DCASE presents

## Self-Guided Public Art Tour

### Millennium Park Campus

**Tour Starts:** Chicago Cultural Center (north side), Randolph steps

**Tour Ends:** Chicago Cultural Center (west side), Garland Court

### INTRO

Welcome to Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), self-guided public art tour.

Brief information about the location, the artist and 7 public artworks are provided below.

The self-guided tour will last about 45-60 minutes. Total walking distance is approximately one-half mile, ending back at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Washrooms are available inside the Chicago Cultural Center during regular building hours and in Millennium Park on the West side of Pritzker Pavilion.

**Enjoy!**

### **SW corner of Randolph & Garland Ct.**

#### 1. Title: We Will (2005)

- Artist: **Richard Hunt**, (born 1935, Chicago.)
- Artist info:
  - Graduated from School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
  - Over 150 commissioned works.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> African-American sculptor to have a major solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York
  - 1968 appointed by Pres. Lyndon Johnson to serve on the National Council on the Arts.
  - In 2015 (his 80<sup>th</sup> bday) CCC exhibited 60 pieces of his work, representing his career.
- About the work:
  - Welded stainless steel
  - 35'H x 8'W x 8'D
  - Commissioned by the developers of the Heritage building (condos/retail)
  - *"Leaps from its stippled metal pedestal like a flame dancing in the breeze."*-Blogger
  - Artist quote: "In some works it is my intention to develop the kind of forms Nature might create if only heat and steel were available to her."
  - The artist recently completed a monument to Ida B. Wells, an early leader in the Civil Rights movement and a founder of the NAACP.



- (Walk to East side of CCC and cross Michigan Ave. at Washington to Boeing Gallery North, South of Randolph, East of Michigan)

### Millennium Park

- Opened in 2004, the 24.5-acre Millennium Park was an industrial wasteland transformed into a world-class public park. Until 1997, the land was covered with railroad tracks and parking lots. The Park was first conceived in 1997 with then-Mayor Richard M. Daley's vision of turning the area into a public space. The project evolved, featuring a collection of world-renowned artists, architects, planners, landscape architects and designers.

#### Boeing Gallery North

### 2. Title: Screenhouse (2020 – on view thru April 2022)

- Artist: **Edra Soto** (Puerto Rico, 1971)
- Artist info:
  - Interdisciplinary artist, and co-director of the outdoor project space THE FRANKLIN
  - Lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- About the work:
  - Freestanding social structure influenced by traditional garden gazebo models
  - The decorative screens, known as *rejas* and *quiebrasoles*, are common in Puerto Rico.
  - Constructed from approx. 400 charcoal-hued, 12-inch cast concrete blocks, 10' high
  - It's part of a series exploring symbolic transplants of iron grills and decorative concrete screen blocks found throughout the Caribbean and the American South.
  - Incorporates the patterns into a modernized gazebo structure that allows for the patterns to permeate the space, while immersing the viewer.
  - Transforms from a screen that divides public from private into a free-standing structure that functions as both a sculptural object and a social gathering place.

*(Walk south to Cloud Gate)*



### 3. Title: Cloud Gate (2004)

- Artist: **Anish Kapoor** (Bombay/Mumbai 1954)
- Artist info:
  - British Indian sculptor specializing in installation art and conceptual art
  - Works on a variety of scales and with diverse materials—mirrors, stone, wax, and PVC
  - Named a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 2003 + Knighthood in 2013 for services to the visual arts
- About the work:
  - Affectionately known as “The Bean”, the artist's first public outdoor work in the US.
  - 110-tons, stainless steel
  - Exterior created using computer technology to cut 168 steel plates, fitted together and welded shut for a seamless finish
  - Inside, a network of two large metal rings, connected via a truss framework, similar to a bridge



- Allows the weight to be directed to its two base points, creating the “bean” shape & allowing for the concave area beneath that invites visitors to touch its surface and see their image reflected back.
- The exterior is attached to the frame with flexible connectors that let it expand and contract as the weather changes.
- Reflects the skyline and green space. The reflection of the sky & curved underside serve as an entrance to the park, and inspired the artist to name the piece Cloud Gate.

*(Walk South to Boeing Gallery South, near Monroe, just East of Crown Fountain)*

## Boeing Gallery South

4. Title: **“When we call the Earth by way of distinction a planet and the Moon a satellite, we should consider whether we do not, in a certain sense, mistake the matter. Perhaps - and not unlikely - the Moon is the planet and the Earth the satellite! Are we not a larger moon to the Moon, than she is to us?”** (2020 – on view thru April 2022)



- Artist: **Christine Tarkowski** (Connecticut, 1967)
- Artist info:
  - Chicago-based artist and professor in the Fiber and Material Studies Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
  - Works in a variety of media: sculpture, printed matter, photography and even song
  - Range in scale from ordinary to monumental
- About the work:
  - As extravagantly conjured as its title, taken from the 18th-century British astronomer William Herschel
  - Candy-colored hand-blown glass boulders suspended above earthbound boulders evoke a strange, yet elemental landscape—ironically similar to our environment, both natural and built.
  - Set in the midst of a highly manicured garden in Millennium Park, it seems a gentle critique of how cities build, manipulate, and re-present natural forms.

*(Walk slightly West to Crown Fountain)*

## 5. Title: **Crown Fountain (2004)**

- Artist: **Jaume Plensa** (Spain, 1955) [pronounced “Zhou-may”]
- Artist info:
  - One of the world's foremost sculptors working in the public space
  - SAIC gave him an honorary doctorate in 2005
  - Exhibiting work since 1980 with over 30 projects spanning the globe, in cities such as Dubai, London, Liverpool, Nice, Tokyo, Toronto and Vancouver.
- About the work:
  - Designed as a “live” piece of art
  - Two 50-foot glass block towers at each end of a shallow 232 foot black granite reflecting pool. (Will be dry when touring.)
  - Towers project video images on LED screens from a broad spectrum of 1000 Chicago citizens, Plensa's tribute to Chicagoans.



- The 1000 faces selected for Crown Fountain matched the diversity of the city's population, based on the 2000 census, thus "archiving" the people of Chicago.
- It's a reference to the traditional use of gargoyles in fountains, where faces of mythological beings were sculpted with open mouths to allow water, a symbol of life, to flow out.
- Plensa adapted this practice by having water flow through an outlet in the screen, giving the illusion of water spouting from their mouths.
- The fountain's water features operate during the year between mid-spring and mid-fall, while the images remain on view year-round.

*(Walk slightly North and West to Madison/Michigan Ave. Exit the park and cross Michigan Ave at Washington)*

### Chicago Cultural Center

- *Completed in 1897 as Chicago's first central public library, the building was designed to impress and to prove that Chicago had grown into a sophisticated metropolis. The stunning landmark building is home to two magnificent stained-glass domes. It is open daily and presents visual and performing arts, a learning lab, and more.*

## 6. Title: Bronze Cow (2001)

- Artists:
  - Pascal Knapp (1957, Switzerland), created original cast in Chicago
  - Nathan Mason, designed this version
- About the work:
  - Cows have been part of Chicago's history since its days as the meatpacking center of the country (Civil War - 1920s)
  - A cow was (probably unfairly) blamed for starting the great Chicago Fire of 1871.
  - 8-feet-long, 4 1/2-feet-tall, 2500 lbs.
  - Depicted as reflections in the eyes of the cow are two famous Chicago landmarks, the "Chicago Picasso" sculpture and the Historic Water Tower.
- The backstory:
  - In 1999, a herd of fiberglass cows united Chicago through a public art project entitled "Cows on Parade", curated by DCASE's own Nathan Mason.
  - Originally conceived and presented in Zurich, Switzerland in 1998, Chicago businessman Peter Hanig saw the painted cows and brought the idea back to Chicago and then-Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Lois Weisberg.
  - The artist, Pascal Knapp is the son of the creator of the Zurich cow parade.
  - The city purchased 320 unadorned cows and held a design contest for local artists.
  - Per the plaque: "The bronze cow is a gift to all Chicagoans in gratitude for the support of the cows and other art in public places. A gift to the city of Chicago from the Hanig family and anonymous donors."
  - In 2019 the city displayed 20 of the original cows to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the exhibit.
  - Since 1999 Cow Parades have taken place in over 80 cities worldwide, with over 2500 unique cows created.





*(Walk West and North around corner to Garland Court; cross street for better view)*

## 7. Title: Rushmore (2017)

- Artist: **Kerry James Marshall** (1955, Birmingham, AL)
- Artist info:
  - Chicago resident has had exhibitions throughout Europe and North America, and his work has been included in many prestigious international exhibitions.
  - Uses many types of media, including collage, drawings, and even comic books
  - Known for referencing African American culture and history, including the Civil Rights era and the Black Power movement
  - KJM has exhibited here and credits CCC with launching his career.
- About the work:
  - 132-foot by 100-foot mural, his largest artwork to-date; a gift to the city.
  - Designed for narrow Garland Court, he knew that the site had to be 'opened up'
  - His solution was to create a park-like view with a bright sun and stand of trees, while also honoring the building as the hub of artistic activity in Chicago.
  - The trees represent a kind of Forest Rushmore, honoring the contributions of 20 women, past and present, who've shaped the city's arts and cultural landscape.
- More info:
  - Visit the Learning Lab or check out the link to learn more about the women depicted in the mural. [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/kjm\\_mural.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/kjm_mural.html)



**We have reached the end of our tour.** Thank you for joining us!

There's so much more to explore. Check out these iconic sculptures nearby.

- Picasso in Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington.
- Richard Hunt, 'Freeform' at 161 N. LaSalle. Be sure to look up!
- Alexander Calder, Flamingo in Federal Plaza, 219 S. Dearborn



For questions or comments reach out to [VolunTours@cityofchicago.org](mailto:VolunTours@cityofchicago.org)