

For Immediate Release: April 6, 2023

Exhibition Website: [mocp.org/exhibition/shift/](https://mocp.org/exhibition/shift/)

Exhibition Press Folder:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dwjywg8x9wdxvc/Cecil%20McDonald%2C%20Jr.%20Ellice%20%26%20pod.jpg?dl=0>



André Lützen "Aufnahme Studio in Marseille Generation Boul Fale, Marseille / Dakar." 1997–2001. Cecil McDonald, Jr., "1200 Meditation Things My Mother Gave Me." 2007.

**CHICAGO**—[Museum of Contemporary Photography](https://mocp.org) at Columbia College Chicago (MoCP) will host the exhibition "[Shift: Music, Meaning, Context](https://mocp.org/exhibition/shift/)" from April 13-August 6, 2023. "Shift: Music, Meaning, Context" considers how music changes in form and interpretation as it moves across different performers, cultures and eras. Presented by the [Goethe-Institut Chicago](https://goetheinstitute.org) and MoCP, "Shift" opens questions about the contours of cultural ownership as it explores how music and other sonic forms can become sites of play, ritual and power. The exhibition is curated by Leonhard Emmerling, Director of the Goethe-Institut Chicago, and Leah Gallant, Program Curator at the Goethe-Institut Chicago, along with Asha Iman Veal, Associate Curator at MoCP.

The artists for this exhibition include: [Bani Abidi](#), [Lawrence Abu Hamdan](#), [Tony Cokes](#), [Jeremy Deller](#), [Hassan Hajjaj](#), [Sven Johne](#), [André Lützen](#), [Cecil McDonald, Jr.](#), [Emeka Ogboh](#) and [Taryn Simon](#).

The works in "Shift: Music, Meaning, Context" demonstrate how cultural origins are always hybrid, and how artistic forms are given to alteration and change as they move through different contexts. The act of attributing significance to a song, instrument or genre, cannot necessarily contain the multitude of meanings and elastic nature of music itself as it travels across audiences and interpretations.

#### UPCOMING EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

This is the list of free upcoming exhibition-related programs. Events are subject to change, please visit [MoCP.org](https://mocp.org) for more details along with a list of other upcoming programs.

### **Opening Reception and Artist Talk: Cecil McDonald, Jr.**

Friday, April 14, 2023 | 5-7 p.m.  
MoCP, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

The opening reception includes a discussion with exhibiting artist [Cecil McDonald, Jr.](#) from **5:30-6 p.m.** McDonald studied fashion, house music and dance club culture before receiving an MFA in photography at Columbia College Chicago where he currently serves as an adjunct professor. In 2016, the first edition of his monograph “In the Company of Black” was published and shortlisted by the Aperture Foundation for the 2017 First PhotoBook Award.

### **Film Screening: “Resistimos (We Resist)” (2020) by Diana Quiñones Rivera**

Thursday, April 20, 2023 | 6-7:30 p.m.  
Ferguson Hall, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

“Resistimos (We Resist)” is a feature-length documentary film about current socio-economic issues in Puerto Rico seen through the lives of Bomba practitioners. After the screening, there will be a conversation between filmmaker [Diana Quiñones Rivera](#) and [Ivelisse “Bombera de Corazón” Diaz](#), founder of [La Escuelita Bombera De Corazón](#), an Afro-Indigenous diasporic performing arts school in Chicago dedicated to the preservation of Bomba.

### **RE\*VER\*BER\*ATE Multi-Disciplinary CPS Arts Festival**

Sunday, April 30 2023 | 1-3 p.m.  
MoCP, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

MoCP will host solo and duet musical performances by Chicago Public Schools students as part of CPS’s citywide multi-disciplinary arts festival. Students will perform a cappella songs in the galleries.

### **Lecture with Priscilla Layne, PhD “Injecting Old Europe with New Ideas: Appropriating Black Music in Germany”**

Thursday May 4, 2023 | 6-7:30 p.m.  
Ferguson Hall, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

[Priscilla Layne](#), Professor of German at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, will talk about how after World War II, German authors appropriated Black music and other forms of popular culture to distance themselves from the legacy of Nazi Germany, authoritarianism and racism. Layne is the author of “White Rebels in Black: German Appropriation of Black Popular Culture” (2018), and is currently working on her second book, “Out of this World: Afro-German Afrofuturism.”

### **Artist Talk with Emeka Ogboh and Bani Abidi: “Remaking the Anthem”**

Thursday, June 15, 2023 | 12 p.m. Central Time and Re-Broadcast at 6 p.m.  
Via Zoom. Check [mocp.org](http://mocp.org) for more details.

Exhibiting artists [Emeka Ogboh](#) and [Bani Abidi](#) will have an online conversation about how contemporary art can recontextualize national anthems, opening questions about patriotism and cultural belonging. Through his works, Ogboh explores how private and public memories and histories are translated, transformed and encoded into sound and food. Bani Abidi’s practice draws on both every day and historical events to explore issues of nationalism and state power. Abidi studied painting and printmaking, and she later attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, earning an MFA in 1999. In 2021, Abidi had a solo exhibition at the MCA Chicago.

## **Lecture with Duane Powell: “The Foreign Exchange: Dance Music Culture from the Midwest to Across the Pond”**

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 6 p.m.

Goethe-Institut Chicago

150 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 200

Advance registration for this event is encouraged - please register [here](#).

In this talk, DJ and music historian [Duane Powell](#) will illuminate Detroit techno’s and Chicago house music’s connections to Europe, from the influence of German band Kraftwerk to UK music festival Southport Weekender. Powell has been a fixture on the music scene for many years, starting with his work in the early years of house music, along with headlining many national music festivals.

### **About MoCP | [MoCP.org](#)**

Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago (MoCP) is the world’s premier college art museum dedicated to photography. As an international hub, MoCP generates ideas and provokes dialogue among students, artists and diverse communities through groundbreaking exhibitions and programming. Museum of Contemporary Photography cultivates a deeper understanding of the artistic, cultural and political roles of photography in our world today.

MoCP is supported by Columbia College Chicago, the MoCP Advisory Board, the Museum Council, individuals, and private and corporate foundations. The 2022-2023 exhibition season is sponsored in part by the Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation, the Pritzker Traubert Foundation, the Efroymsen Family Fund, the Henry Nias Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

### **About the Goethe-Institut Chicago | [Goethe.de/Chicago](#)**

As the globally active cultural institution of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe-Institut advocates for understanding between Germany, Europe and the world. Our principal goals are to present contemporary German culture abroad, to support the teaching and learning of the German language and to develop an international network for the exchange of culture and ideas. Through partnerships with other cultural and educational institutions, the Goethe-Institut presents a range of diverse programming in the arts, humanities and social sciences, including film screenings, art exhibitions, lectures, academic conferences, literary events and performances of dance, theater and music.

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