

Teacher Guide

Six Scenes From Our Future

On view | October 27, 2023–March 17, 2024



Mel Chin, *Convo Pool*, 2016/2023. Wood, upholstery fabric, hardware, vinyl, lights, and plants. Installation view of *TOTAL PROOF: The GALA Committee 1995-1997* at Red Bull Arts New York, 2016. Photo: Lance Brewer. Image and work courtesy the artist.

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Exhibition Overview

- ***Six Scenes From Our Future* celebrates CAMH's 75th anniversary**, featuring six artists' responses to the museum's inaugural exhibition in 1948. It includes new commissions and existing works from Mel Chin, JooYoung Choi, Leslie Hewitt, Lisa Lapinski, Jill Magid, and Leslie Martinez.
- **CAMH's first exhibition challenged art norms, merging functional household objects with artworks**, emphasizing experimentation, and recognizing the transformative power of art and artists. It set the stage for the museum's ethos, blurring art and everyday life.
- **Mel Chin's *Convo Pool (2016/2023)* is a replica of the apartment pool featured in the 1990s television show *Melrose Place***, created as an ode to his role in forming the *GALA Committee*, which produced over 200 pieces of art as props for the show. This artwork is an interactive installation within the Museum space. GALA stands for Georgia (GA) and Los Angeles (LA).
- **JooYoung Choi's *The Cosmic Womb* is a highly-detailed fictional universe brought to life by the artist** through various mediums, including puppetry and video, addressing issues like anti-racism and gender inclusivity. Choi created a large multi-tiered birthday cake sculpture to display her functional puppets and celebrate CAMH's 75th anniversary.
- **Leslie Hewitt's artwork responds to disciplines explored in CAMH's first exhibition in 1948**, including architecture, graphic design, and photography. Hewitt researched CAMH's architectural history and the life of architect John S. Chase, the first

licensed African American architect in Texas, to explore the alignment of aesthetics and progressive ideas.

- **Lisa Lapinski's *The Younger Set* installation is designed as a department store vignette** with artist-designed wallpaper, modular seating sculptures, and posters, paying tribute to CAMH's innovative presentation of everyday objects in the 1948 exhibition.
 - **Jill Magid's *The Proposal* is both a sculpture and a tool of negotiation**. Magid offers the ring to the owner of architect Luis Barragán's professional archive in exchange for its return to public access in Mexico. The first show at CAMH also displayed jewelry as part of the exhibition.
 - **Leslie Martinez's paintings often investigate the concept of borderlands**, whether geographic, ideological, or psychic. In this exhibition, Martinez stepped beyond the traditional canvas to create functioning lamp sculptures inspired by her background in fashion and design. The works respond to the 1948 CAMH exhibition by showing the connection between art, daily life, and design.
 - **The exhibition embodies CAMH's trust in living artists' visions**, demonstrating how contemporary art and design are integral to life. It launches CAMH's diamond anniversary year, highlighting the museum's community-centric and boundary-pushing ethos.
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Key Questions

For students and/or museum viewers:

- How does JooYoung Choi use sculpture, video, and puppetry to tell a story in her artworks? What messages or themes do you identify?
- What popular culture are you inspired by? How would you use it in an artwork?
- How do Leslie Hewitt's artworks blend architecture, graphic design, and photography?
- In Lisa Lapinski's installation, how are boundaries blurred between art and design? What elements from historical department stores can you identify in her work?
- How would you celebrate 75 years of contemporary art?
- How are the artists and works in the exhibition *This Is Contemporary Art* (1948) resonate with you today?



Leslie Hewitt, *Daylight/Daylong 019*, 2022, digital chromogenic print. Image and work courtesy the artist and Perrotin. Photographer: Guillaume Ziccarelli.

Curriculum Connections

Social Studies: Jill Magid's works challenge copyright and image circulation. Respond to the social and legal aspects of Magid's art. For example, students might simulate a debate or court trial, taking on the roles of artists, legal experts, and historians to argue the impact of art on culture and the law.

Language Arts: JooYoung Choi's works combine sculpture, video, and puppetry. Using a variety of materials, students are encouraged to enhance their storytelling skills by creating their own puppets, writing a script narrating the puppet's adventures, and setting the story within one of Choi's fantastical settings.

Mathematics and Science: Explore the geometry and spatial relationships within the artworks. Investigate the scientific principles of light, optics, and the photographic processes used in Leslie Hewitt's art.
