

GUGGENHEIM

NEWS RELEASE

Guggenheim Museum Presents *Nick Cave: Forothermore*

The artist's survey exhibition honors his lifelong commitment to creating space for those who feel marginalized by dominant society and culture.

Exhibition: *Nick Cave: Forothermore*

Venue: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Avenue, New York

Location: Tower Levels 2, 4, and 5, and Thannhauser Gallery 4

Date: November 18, 2022–April 10, 2023

(NEW YORK, NY—November 18, 2022) Nick Cave (b. 1959, Fulton, Missouri) has become internationally celebrated for his elaborate sculpture and found-object installations, including his iconic *Soundsuits*, which blend sculpture, fashion, and social performance. Traveling from the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *Nick Cave: Forothermore* is a survey exhibition covering the entire breadth of his career. Featuring sculpture, installation, video, and rarely seen early works, the show examines Cave's multivalent creative practice as an artist, performer, fashion designer, educator, and activist. The subtitle, "Forothermore," is a new word that reflects the artist's lifelong commitment to providing space for those who feel marginalized by dominant society and culture—especially working-class communities and queer people of color. The exhibition both highlights the development of Cave's singular art practice, which uniquely combines the visual and the performing arts, and interrogates the promises, fulfilled or broken, that the late 20th and early 21st centuries offered to the "other."

Installed in the museum's tower galleries, the survey's thematic sections are titled "What It Was," "What It Is," and "What It Shall Be," inspired by an old African American greeting. The exhibition unfolds as a tripartite story, with the three chapters looking into the past, present, and future of Cave's practice. "What It Was" explores early works that honor the artist's creative and social foundations within his family and beyond. Living and working in Chicago, Cave has been deeply influenced by the psychedelic pageants of musician George Clinton's Parliament-Funkadelic collective, which draws on Surrealism, science fiction, and outlandish fashion. Yet he is equally inspired by the design philosophy of the Bauhaus movement, the creative frugality of his family, and the visceral hedonism of the Chicago House music scene. "What It Is" includes Cave's work that addresses oppression, loss, mourning, and remembrance, but also joy and collective celebration. Finally, "What It Shall Be" gathers Cave's recent incarnation of *Soundsuits* and monumentally scaled *Tondo* works, which exemplify his survival strategies amid injustice.

Nick Cave: Forothermore comprehensively investigates aspects of Cave’s career that are grounded in key aesthetic and ethical commitments: the artist primarily works with found objects and existing materials, making “something from nothing;” he creates objects that are as legible to art mavens as they are to those without a formal education; he collaborates with others embedding a sense of community within his projects; and he sensitively incorporates life-altering historical events into works that celebrate his creative roots while addressing ongoing injustice.

The exhibition is accompanied by a major, 320-page scholarly publication that is structured through the same thematic sections as the Guggenheim’s show: “What It Is,” “What It Was,” and “What It Shall Be”—each of which has a particular orientation toward time and key concepts in Cave’s oeuvre. “What It Is” explores Cave’s practice in dialogue with his lived experience as a queer Black man, showing how flashpoint political and cultural moments such as the beating of Rodney King and the ongoing Black Lives Matter uprisings shape his work. The focus of “What It Was” is Cave’s historical influences—from 1970s African American dance music and fashion to Chicago’s House music scene—which inspired Cave’s improvisatory and exuberant aesthetic. Finally, “What It Shall Be” highlights Cave’s creation of utopian alternatives as a strategy for survival in the face of oppression. Edited by Naomi Beckwith, the catalogue features a range of voices, including those of the artist and scholars who identify as people of color. Its contributors are Beckwith, Cave, Romi Crawford, Damita Jo Freeman, Malik Gaines, Nona Hendryx, Linda Johnson Rice, Meida Teresa McNeal, Antwaun Sargent, and Krista Thompson. The monograph, with over 100 pages of color illustrations, is published by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and DelMonico Books in partnership with Artbook | D.A.P and is designed by Bob Faust.

In honor of Cave’s desire to give access to the broadest audience, the opening weekend of *Nick Cave: Forothermore* will be free to the public, thanks in part to support by Ford Foundation.

Nick Cave: Forothermore is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. The exhibition is curated by Naomi Beckwith, Deputy Director and Jennifer and David Stockman Chief Curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York, and formerly Manilow Senior Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, with Jack Schneider, Curatorial Assistant, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. This is Beckwith’s curatorial debut at the Guggenheim. X Zhu-Nowell, Assistant Curator, is supporting the Guggenheim presentation.

Funders

The exhibition is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. The MCA exhibition tour is made possible by Kenneth C. Griffin. Lead support is provided by the Harris Family Foundation in memory of Bette and Neison Harris, Zell Family Foundation, Cari and Michael Sacks, Nancy and Steven Crown, Joyce Young and Matt Bayer, Julie and Larry Bernstein, Marilyn and Larry Fields, Agnes Gund, Jack Shainman Gallery, and Karyn and Bill Silverstein.

Major support for *Nick Cave: Forothermore* is provided by the Ford Foundation and Macallan.

The Leadership Committee for this exhibition is gratefully acknowledged for its support, with special thanks to Edlis-Neeson Foundation, Julie and Larry Bernstein, Agnes Gund, Cari and Michael J. Sacks, Ann and Mel Schaffer, Jack Shainman Gallery, Denise and Gary Gardner, Marieluse Hessel, and Desiree Rogers and Victoria Rogers.

Support is also generously provided by LLWW Foundation, Christie's and The Coby Foundation, Ltd.

Additional funding is provided by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's International Director's Council.

Exhibition programs are generously supported by MillerKnoll.

About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation was established in 1937 and is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. The international constellation of museums includes the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice; the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; and the future Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. An architectural icon and “temple of spirit” where radical art and architecture meet, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum is now among a group of eight Frank Lloyd Wright structures in the United States recently designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. To learn more about the museum and the Guggenheim's activities around the world, visit guggenheim.org.

Sustainability

The Guggenheim Museum is committed to the sustainable stewardship of our collections and facilities, preserving them for future generations, and minimizing environmental impact.

#NickCaveForothermore

@Guggenheim

guggenheim.org/social

For publicity images, visit guggenheim.org/pressimages

Password: presspass

Updated November 18, 2022

For additional information

Sara Fox

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation

212 423 3840

pressoffice@guggenheim.org