

WRIGHTWOOD 659

For immediate release

NEW EXHIBITION SPACE DESIGNED BY PRITZKER LAUREATE TADA0 ANDO FORMALLY OPENS IN CHICAGO THIS FALL

Conceived as a space for exhibitions of architecture and of socially engaged art, Wrightwood 659 will open with an exhibition on Le Corbusier and his pivotal influence on Ando

Inaugural Exhibition – Ando and Le Corbusier: Masters of Architecture, October 12–December 15, 2018

(CHICAGO, IL – July 18, 2018) – Wrightwood 659, a new exhibition space, opens in Chicago on October 12, 2018. Conceived for the presentation of exhibitions of architecture and of socially engaged art, it has been designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando, who has transformed a 1920s building with his signature concrete forms and poetic treatment of natural light.

In a city rich with art institutions and internationally known for its architecture, Wrightwood 659 is designed as a site for contemplative experiences of art and architecture, and as a place to engage with the pressing social issues of our time. Located at 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, in Chicago’s Lincoln Park neighborhood, it is a private, non-commercial initiative envisioned as an integral part of the cultural and civic fabric of Chicago, as well as a new kind of arts space and cultural resource.

Ando created the new gallery in an existing brick shell by removing the entire interior structure and inserting a new steel and reinforced-concrete skeleton. The building contains 35,000 square feet on four floors – with 18,000 square feet of exhibition space – and has the highest levels of museum-grade environmental and mechanical controls.

“We wanted to create a space that would provide an intimate environment for looking at and thinking about art and architecture,” said Sandhya Jain-Patel,

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Director of Wrightwood 659. “This has been achieved by Ando’s exquisitely luminous and serene building, as well as by our policy of accommodating relatively small numbers of people at any given time.”

Wrightwood 659 will be open to the public in the spring and fall, presenting two exhibitions a year, generally alternating between socially engaged art and architecture. It aims to provoke consideration and activism on behalf of a more just society, while simultaneously providing an environment that enables quiet contemplation and thoughtful looking. Wrightwood 659 does not have a collection, and it is not intended to be a collecting organization. Admission is by online reservation only. Walk-ins are not allowed. To be alerted when tickets are available, the public may sign up for the mailing list at www.wrightwood659.org

INAUGURAL EXHIBITION

The inaugural exhibition, *Ando and Le Corbusier: Masters of Architecture*, occupies all three floors of exhibition space at Wrightwood 659. It includes more than 100 Le Corbusier drawings, photographs, and models – on loan from institutions including the Fondation Le Corbusier, Paris, and the Art Institute of Chicago – as well as 106 small models of Le Corbusier’s architectural works made by students of Ando, among other objects. Curator of the Le Corbusier section of the exhibition is Eric Mumford, Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis. The Ando section is curated by Dan Whittaker, who is completing his PhD in architectural history at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and who is working with the Ando studio on the installation of that portion of the exhibition.

Ando and Le Corbusier is organized in five sections: The expansive second-floor gallery, devoted to Le Corbusier, will contain his Purist works of the 1920s, including paintings and furniture; his expressive, exposed-concrete work of the postwar years; and a series of maquettes of Le Corbusier buildings created by students of Ando. Highlights here will include original models of key Le Corbusier projects, such as the Villa Savoye (1929), a modernist private house outside of Paris; the urban plan for the reconstruction of the small French city of Saint Dié (1945), intended to transform the war-damaged town into something of a modernist utopia; the Unité d’Habitation, a housing project in Marseille (1945); the chapel at Ronchamp (1950); and the Assembly at Chandigarh, India (1954), represented by a very large model of the entire capitol complex. Several Le Corbusier paintings and lithographs will also be included, along with documentary materials, archival photographs, and

an original chaise longue designed by Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand (1929), from the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The third and fourth floors will be devoted to Ando's work, with the third floor focusing on the architect's work on the island of Naoshima and its Benesse Art Site. This will be represented with models of several art museum buildings and hotel structures. The fourth level will contain a presentation of Ando's three major American museums, with models of the Pulitzer Arts Foundation in St. Louis created by IIT students working under Whittaker's oversight; of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, built by students at University of Illinois Chicago; and of the Clark Art Institute, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, constructed by students at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The three models will be accompanied by hand-drawn sketches by Ando, demonstrating the creative, generative design process he embarks upon when designing spaces to house fine art. In addition to the material in the exhibition galleries, a large concrete scale-model of Ando's iconic Church of the Light in Ibaraki, Osaka, Japan, will be shown on the building's mezzanine level, positioned beneath the building's skylights.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Ando Lecture

On October 11, 2018, Tadao Ando will speak about his work at the Art Institute of Chicago's annual Butler-Vanderlinden Lecture on Architecture, co-presented this year with Alphawood Foundation Chicago. The lecture will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Art Institute's Rubloff Auditorium, at 230 South Columbus Drive. www.artic.edu/event/artist-talk-tadao-ando

Symposium

In conjunction with the exhibition, Wrightwood 659 will hold a symposium of Le Corbusier scholars on November 8–9, 2018, organized by Professor Mumford. Speakers will include Kenneth Frampton, Ware Professor of Architecture, Columbia University; Seng Kuan, University of Tokyo and Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Design; Tim Benton, Professor Emeritus of Art History, the Open University, U.K.; Sheila Crane, Associate Professor and Chair of Architectural History, University of Virginia; Caroline Maniaque-Benton, Professor of the History of Architecture at École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Normandie, France; Michelangelo Sabatino, Dean of the College of Architecture and Rowe Family Endowed Chair, Illinois Institute of Technology; and Mary McLeod, Professor

of Architecture, Columbia University. For information and tickets:
www.wrightwood659.org.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Future exhibitions at Wrightwood 659 will include a presentation in June 2019 on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, and an exhibition devoted to Japanese painter Tetsuya Ishida (1973–2005), organized in collaboration with the Museo Reina Sofia, in Madrid, on view at Wrightwood 659 in fall 2019. In spring 2020 Wrightwood 659 will present “Allure of Matter,” a major exhibition of contemporary experimental art in China, presented in partnership with the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. The exhibition is being organized by renowned Chinese art historian and consulting curator at the Smart Museum of Art, Wu Hung.

ABOUT WRIGHTWOOD 659

Wrightwood 659 was founded by Fred Eychaner and Dan Whittaker. Eychaner is a longtime LGBTQ activist, political donor, philanthropist, and president of Alphawood Foundation Chicago. Whittaker served as owner’s representative for construction of Wrightwood 659, and as liaison with Tadao Ando Architects.

Alphawood is a grant-making foundation committed primarily to advocacy, architecture and preservation, arts and arts education, promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT citizens and people living with HIV/AIDS, and other human and civil rights. James D. McDonough is executive director and general counsel of Alphawood. The Foundation was lead donor to Louis Kahn’s Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island, in New York City, and spearheaded the renovation of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois.

Programing for Wrightwood 659 grew out of the exhibition program of Alphawood Exhibitions, a subsidiary of the Foundation, which presented “Art AIDS America” (2016–17) and “Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties” (2017), both held in the former Alphawood Gallery. Earlier this year, Alphawood Exhibitions, in collaboration with the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, presented “Ai Weiwei: *Trace* in Chicago” at 659 W. Wrightwood Ave., from May 9 to July 7, in a “soft” pre-opening of the building. Wrightwood 659 continues the Alphawood Exhibitions program as a separate non-commercial entity.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Where

659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL

Admission

By advance reservation only. No Walk-ins permitted.

Hours, Ticketing

For hours, ticketing information, and online reservations:

www.wrightwood659.org

Public Information

info@wrightwood659.org

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