

# WRIGHTWOOD 659

For immediate release

## NEW EXHIBITION SPACE DESIGNED BY PRITZKER LAUREATE TADA0 ANDO OFFICIALLY OPENS IN CHICAGO ON OCTOBER 12, 2018

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

(CHICAGO, IL — October 11, 2018) — Wrightwood 659, a new exhibition space in Chicago, opens on October 12, 2018. 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, Wrightwood 659 will be devoted to exhibitions of architecture and socially engaged art. The inaugural exhibition, *Ando and Le Corbusier: Masters of Architecture*, on view October 12–December 15, 2018, will explore Le Corbusier’s pivotal influence on Ando.

In a city rich with art institutions and internationally known for its architecture, Wrightwood 659 is a site for both intimate experiences of art and architecture, and thoughtful engagement 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.

Lisa Cavanaugh, Director of Wrightwood 659, states “We are delighted to be opening a new space for art in Chicago, one conducive to quiet reflection and thoughtful engagement, while also provoking activism on behalf of a more just society. We look forward to welcoming visitors to Wrightwood 659.”

Wrightwood 659 will host exhibitions generally alternating between socially engaged art and explorations in architecture and design. The Gallery does not possess a collection and it is not intended to be a collecting organization. Admission is by online reservation only. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated. To be alerted when tickets are available, please sign up for our mailing list at: [www.wrightwood659.org](http://www.wrightwood659.org).

659 WEST  
WRIGHTWOOD  
AVENUE  
CHICAGO IL  
60614

773 437 6601

WRIGHTWOOD  
659.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. The curator of the Le Corbusier section of the exhibition is Eric Mumford, PhD, Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis. The Ando section is curated by architectural historian Dan Whittaker, PhD, who is working with the Ando studio on the installation of that portion of the exhibition. The exhibition is sponsored by Alphawood Exhibitions LLC.

*Ando and Le Corbusier* is organized in four 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; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, built by students at University of Illinois Chicago; and 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 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](http://www.artic.edu/event/artist-talk-tadao-ando).

### Symposium

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

The keynote lecture by Kenneth Frampton, on November 8, will be held at the 17<sup>th</sup> Church of Christ, Scientist, at 55 East Wacker Drive and is free with advance reservations. For information and tickets, go to [www.wrightwood659.org](http://www.wrightwood659.org). Attendance at the symposium on November 9, which will be held at Wrightwood 659, is by invitation.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Future exhibitions at Wrightwood 659 will include *Dimensions of Citizenship*, the official US exhibition at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale, opening in February 2019; an exhibition coinciding with fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, opening in April 2019; and a presentation of work by 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 be one of two Chicago venues to host *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, philanthropist, and president of Alphawood Foundation Chicago. Whittaker, who is co-curator of the inaugural exhibition, 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.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### Where

659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614

### Admission

By advance reservation only. No walk-ins permitted.

### Hours, Ticketing

For hours, ticketing information, and online reservations:

[www.wrightwood659.org](http://www.wrightwood659.org)

### Public Information

[info@wrightwood659.org](mailto:info@wrightwood659.org)

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National Media Contacts: Ennis O'Brien

Betsy Ennis: [betsy@ennisobrien.com](mailto:betsy@ennisobrien.com)

Lucy O'Brien: [lucy@ennisobrien.com](mailto:lucy@ennisobrien.com)

Chicago Media Contact:

Beth Silverman: [beth@silvermangroupchicago.com](mailto:beth@silvermangroupchicago.com)