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# CULTURED

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Historically a city of architecture, music and art, Chicago continues to be a place for intersections. One does not have to look farther than the vivacious gallery scene to see the way that the local community pushes for inclusivity and a broader definition of the arts. When visiting the Windy City for the architecture biennial or Expo Chicago, these are the brick-and-mortar spots not to miss.



**Monique Meloche** | 2154 W Division

Monique Meloche's first show "Homewrecker" (2000) took over every floor of her Ukrainian Village townhouse. The domestic exhibition's popularity prompted Meloche to invest in a more permanent venue. When she opened, the Canadian transplant backed young artists like Rashid Johnson and Ebony G. Patterson, and rather than rest on her laurels, the dealer continues to invest in every new generation. The program is a mix of emerging and established voices.

In addition to her traditional gallery program, Meloche reaches out to the larger community through initiatives like Gallery Weekend Chicago, an initiative she founded in 2011 to forge new connections between local spaces.

This September, Meloche will stage a second solo show with artist Nate Young, while simultaneously staging a cross-city project with artist Amanda Williams. "These non-traditional exhibition programs allow me to engage and connect with the surrounding community," the dealer says when talking about her role in the greater Chicago scene. This inclusive, hands-on attitude has kept her current for just shy of two decades.