



MACKENZIE ART GALLERY  
MUSÉE D'ART MACKENZIE

## CONCEPTIONS OF WHITE

ARTIST ONCE KNOWN, DEANNA BOWEN, JEREMY BAILEY, JENNIFER CHAN,  
NICHOLAS GALANIN, KEN GONZALES-DAY, ARTHUR Jafa, RYAN KUO,  
MICHÈLE LALONDE, BARBARA MENELEY, ROBERT MORRIS, NELL IRVIN PAINTER,  
HOWARDENA PINDELL, HIRAM POWERS, FRED WILSON

CURATED BY  
LILLIAN O'BRIEN DAVIS &  
JOHN G. HAMPTON

ORGANIZED & CIRCULATED BY  
THE MACKENZIE ART GALLERY

TOURING FROM 2023-2025



**Fred Wilson**, *Love and Loss in the Milky Way*, 2005, table with 47 milk-glass elements, plaster bust, plaster head, standing woman, ceramic cookie jar. Courtesy of the Artist and Pace Gallery.



## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

*Conceptions of White* is an exhibition offering context and nuanced perspectives that help viewers grapple with contemporary configurations of White identity. The exhibition examines the origins, travel, and present reality of “Whiteness” as a concept and a racial invention that classifies degrees of civility/humanity. Select historical objects and artworks illustrate White origin myths within their historical context, revealing Whiteness as a North American, settler-colonial invention of the seventeenth century, created alongside “Blackness” and “Aboriginality.” The contemporary artists in this exhibition complicate this historical foundation by examining how these acts of racialization are felt today through concepts of White guilt, anxiety, supremacy, benevolence, fragility, and power. These artists force us to confront the ideology of cultural erasure embedded in the social construction of Whiteness, the ramifications of its continually expanding borders, and the society fostered by this relatively young theory of racial categorization. Together, the diverse narratives, images, and concepts presented in *Conceptions of White* examine the existential, experiential, and ethical dimensions of engaging in classifications of Whiteness, while also drawing on the conceptual connections between colonial Whiteness and the aesthetic, social, and philosophical meaning we ascribe to the colour white.

The exhibition is framed through a biracial lens with both curators seeking a clearer understanding of their own relationship to Whiteness. John G. Hampton (Chickasaw/Canadian/American) is the Executive Director and CEO of the MacKenzie Art Gallery and Lillian O’Brien Davis (Jamaican/Canadian) is the Curator of Exhibitions and Public Programming at Gallery 44.

Please be advised that this exhibition includes imagery and audio of racialized violence.

*Conceptions of White* aims to inspire contemplation about the invention of Whiteness as a concept, and the impacts that has had on our society, cultural belonging, and collective psyches—for those brought into Whiteness, those who are not, and all the space in between.



## SPECIFICATIONS

### *Conceptions of White*

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#### EXHIBITION INCLUDES

15 artworks (x physical objects, x digital files)

All files for wall vinyl and labels

Education and communications package

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#### SPACE CONSIDERATION

3,500 - 5500 square feet (works may be edited according to the space available.)

Minimum ceiling height of 13.5 ft.

Fully light and sound locked screening space, or ability to construct same

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#### EXHIBITION FEE

\$20,000 + applicable taxes

Fee includes artist fees; copyright fee for website and social media reproductions; guest curator fee; tour management; travel and accommodations for one curator; pro-rated production costs for the two replica sculptures; production stipend for artists producing new work

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#### SHIPPING

Borrowing institutions are responsible for one-way prorated shipping via a fine arts carrier approved by the lending institution

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#### PUBLICATION

The MacKenzie Art Gallery is producing a publication to accompany the exhibition. Participation and contributions from host institutions are welcome. Terms and conditions of contribution are negotiable.

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#### OTHER COSTS

All costs related to the installation and presentation at the touring venue.

Artist fees for public programming.

Travel and accommodations for artist(s) and/or curator(s) to attend opening reception or other programming event, to be confirmed in consultation with the Lending institution.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES  
ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.



**Artist Once Known, After Leochares,  
*Apollo Belvedere***

plaster replica of Roman copy (c. 120–140  
AD) of Greek Bronze (c. 330–320 BCE)

Produced by the RMN Grand Palais  
Workshop in Paris, from a cast of Apollo  
Belvedere commissioned by King Francis I  
shortly after it was put on display in 1511.



**Deanna Bowen**

*White Man's Burden*, 2022

Installation, framed prints with selected  
works from the MAG Permanent Collection.

Photo by: Carey Shaw



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**Jeremy Bailey**

*Whitesimple*, 2022

custom augmented reality filters.

Courtesy of the artist.

Photo by: Carey Shaw



**Fred Wilson**

*Love and Loss in the Milky Way*, 2005

Installation (1 table with 47 milk glass elements; 1 plaster bust; 1 plaster head; 1 standing woman and a ceramic cookie jar)

197.5 x 233.7 x 111.4 cm

Courtesy of the Artist and Pace Gallery



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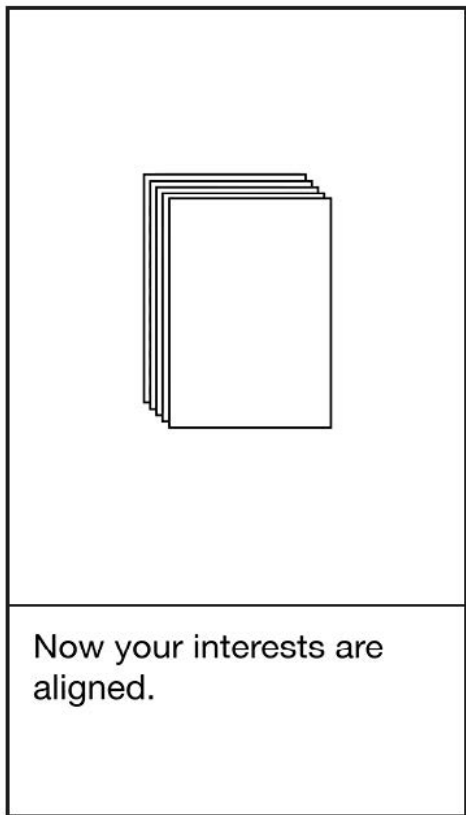
**Jennifer Chan, *Aryan Recognition Tool*, 2022**

artificial intelligence-driven web application,  
<https://aryan.tools>

AI development supported by Andrew Matte;  
user experience design by Anu Kuga.

Courtesy of the artist.

Photo by: Carey Shaw



**Ryan Kuo**

*File: A Primer*, 2018

keynote animation, 6min 20sec

Courtesy of the artist.



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**Nicholas Galanin**

*White Noise, American Prayer Rug, 2020*

Rug (wall hanging) wool, cotton

152.5 x 244 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Peter Blum Gallery,  
New York



**Hiram Powers**

*Model of the Greek Slave, 1843*

painted PLA printed replica from 3D scan of  
plaster sculpture

File courtesy of the Smithsonian American  
Art Museum, original purchased in memory  
of Ralph Cross Johnson.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES  
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**Robert Morris**

*Portal*, 1964

Latex on aluminum

243.2 x 122.1 x 30.5 cm

Collection Museum of Contemporary Art  
Chicago, Gift of Mrs. Robert B. Mayer



**Michèle Lalonde**

*Speak White*, 1968

excerpt from the film *La Nuit de la Poésie 27  
Mars 1970* by Jean-Claude Labrecque and  
Jean-Pierre Masse, 1971

5 min

Video from the collection of the National  
Film Board, courtesy of the Michèle Lalonde  
estate. Poem © Michèle Lalonde, 1968. All  
rights reserved in all countries and in all  
languages.

Photo by: Carey Shaw





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**Ken Gonzales-Day**

*"The Wonder Gaze", St. James Park, 2006–2022*

vinyl wall installation

Courtesy of Luis De Jesus Los Angeles.

Photo by: Carey Shaw



**Arthur Jafa**

*The White Album, 2018*

video, 30min

Collection of Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

Photo by: Carey Shaw



**Barbara Meneley**

*White Land / Treaty For?, 2022*

21 ink drawings on paper, assorted items on Plexiglas shelves (rocks, feather, tree bark, dried plant material, sand, vials of water, photographs, small video monitors)

Collection of the artist.

Photo by: Carey Shaw



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**Howardena Pindell**

*Free, White and 21*, 1980

Single-channel video with sound, color

12:15 minutes

Collection Museum of Contemporary Art  
Chicago, gift of Garth Greenan and Bryan  
Davidson Blue, 2014.22

Photo by: Carey Shaw



**Nell Painter**

*Ancient Hair*, 2019

Photo documentation of installation

Dimensions variable

Collection of the artist

Photo by: Carey Shaw



## MACKENZIE TEAM

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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