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# Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago News

## MCA DNA: RAFAEL FERRER

September 19, 2015 – March 6, 2016



The **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** presents the work of Puerto Rican-born artist **Rafael Ferrer**, who first came to prominence in the late 1960s as a prime instigator of a movement called process art, which focuses on the process of creating, rather than on the resulting object. A 1972 solo exhibition at MCA, “Tierra del Fuego,” put the artist on track where he created more personal and expressive items—including maps and flags—using various everyday materials and presenting them within installations, Ferrer—who studied with such well-known Surrealist figures as Wifredo Lam and André Breton—emerged as a national and international figure on the strength of these works. The exhibition highlights several pieces from that seminal exhibition, including the corrugated steel *Kayak #2: Norte*, the colorful *Portrait of Charles Darwin as a Fuegian Ceremonial Mask*, and a selection from his on-going series of vibrantly colored, highly imaginative paper bag faces.

Also on view is are two rarely seen suspended wire sculptures: *Bituki Bakilin Bin Bin*, an abstracted thirteen-foot-long fish, and *Ciclon en el Mar de la China (A cyclone in the Sea of China)*. The exhibition features Ferrer's cycle of paintings *Cien Años de Soledad (One hundred years of solitude)*, which illustrate Nobel Prize-winning writer Gabriel García Márquez's extraordinary novel. **MCA DNA: Rafael Ferrer** is organized by MCA Curator Lynne Warren, and it is part of an ongoing exhibition series featuring iconic works from the MCA Collection.

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Images: Rafael Ferrer. *Coronacion y Masacre de la Reina de Madagascar (Coronation and Massacre of the Queen of Madagascar)*, 1982. Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, gift of Earl and Betsy Millard, 1991.46.8 © Rafael Ferrer/Licensed by VAGA, New York. Photo: Nathan Keay, © MCA Chicago.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies, including the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District. The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue, one block east of Michigan Avenue. The museum and sculpture garden are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and Tuesday from 10 am to 8 pm. The museum is closed on Monday. Tuesdays are Community Free Days with free admission for Illinois residents. Suggested general admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Children 12 years of age and under, MCA members, and members of the military are admitted free. Information about MCA exhibitions, programs, and special events is available on the MCA website at [mcachicago.org](http://mcachicago.org) or by phone at 312.280.2660.