Alexandre da Cunha

Alexandre da Cunha rarely makes objects from scratch. Instead he is a poet of found materials, repurposing already-existing items to bring out their inherent if overlooked beauty. Although he develops many of his works from objects found around the home, Da Cunha turned to objects of an urban scale to address this particular site. *Mix (Americana)*, for example, is a cement mixer liberated from the back of a truck and presented as an object of beauty.

After visiting a local concrete pipe factory in the western suburb of Elgin, Da Cunha was inspired to produce two new works that continue his interest in repeating geometric forms. The tower-like sculpture, *Figurehead*, is made from three sections of sewer pipe—like those under the city of Chicago. Stacked vertically, it suggests a readymade skyscraper. Similarly, in *Biscuit*, Da Cunha transformed a mundane sewer cap into a playful abstract composition simply by presenting it in an unconventional way. Through imagination and insight, Da Cunha encourages new meanings from otherwise everyday objects and materials.

Da Cunha has also created a wallpaper design that follows similar principles, inside the museum's second-floor lobby at the top of the stairs.

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MCA PLAZA PROJECT 2015–16

Da Cunha's installation is the fifth iteration of the MCA Plaza Project, which brings art outside the museum and into the public sphere. The series has previously featured the work of Yinka Shonibare, MBE (2014), Amanda Ross-Ho (2013), Martin Creed (2012), and Mark Handforth (2011).

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To learn more about Alexandre da Cunha, please visit mcachicago.org/cunha.