Basim Magdy's work takes us on a journey from science fiction narratives to poignant reflections on our everyday world.

Over the last fifteen years, Basim Magdy (Egyptian, b. 1977) has explored the public's collective imagination of the future in works on paper, paintings, photographs, and films. In artworks that are both poetic and playful, Magdy critiques the realities of the world and its failures while aspiring for a better future.

Trained as a painter, Magdy began his career experimenting with colorful works on paper and canvas. He later moved into the realm of photography and cinema and developed a process that he dubbed "pickling," during which household chemicals are applied to analog film and photographic material. The results are sumptuous, spectral photographic visions of landscapes, presented as large-scale prints, slide projections, and films. His works across media—which appear festive in contrast to their grim titles, such as *They Endorsed Collective Failure as the Dawn of a New Renaissance* and *The Bitterness of What Could Have Happened and What Ended Up Happening*—speak to our collective ambition for a utopian future and the inherent failure of this human endeavor.

The MCA presents Magdy's first US museum survey, which spans the artist's career and features rarely seen and recently created pieces. This presentation includes a newly commissioned work for the MCA, *An Island Recalls the Tangled Details of Its Past Life as a Poem of Solitude and Unrecorded Events* (2016), which looks at humanity's obsession with mythologizing islands. A specially produced artist book is also on view.

This exhibition is organized by the Deutsche Bank KunstHalle in Berlin as part of the Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year program. It is overseen and curated at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago by Omar Kholeif, Manilow Senior Curator.

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Basim Magdy invites you to respond to the exhibition by creating a photo, video, or image inspired by the art on view; feel free to use text, filters, or digital doodles.

Share it with the museum @mcachicago and tag #BasimToldMeTo.

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