

TO THE RACY BRINK

The MCA has a long history of showcasing risk-taking artists. Their groundbreaking artworks, which presented new ideas and experimental forms, brought viewers, in the words of critic Harold Haydon, “close to the racy brink.”

The museum’s 50th anniversary offers a fitting occasion to look back at its earliest years when exhibitions introduced young, innovative artists such as Christo, Dan Flavin, and Chris Burden, who were then unknown but are now considered iconic figures in contemporary art. A video documenting Burden’s legendary 1975 endurance performance *Doomed* is presented here for the first time, along with other film, video, and additional materials that tell these stories. A selection of interviews from the 1980s to the present—featuring artists such as Magdalena Abakanowicz, Kerry James Marshall, and Lorna Simpson discussing their work—also demonstrates the museum’s ongoing commitment to supporting artists as they develop new forms and redefine established genres.

To the Racy Brink is the first of a series of exhibitions celebrating the MCA’s 50th anniversary. It is organized by Lynne Warren, Curator, and Mary Richardson, Library Director.

All materials
Collection Museum
of Contemporary
Art Chicago Library
and Archives