Edra Soto
Open 24 Hours

Edra Soto’s works begin with an invitation to members of the public to gather, collaborate, and consider the nature of civic space and personal responsibility. Edra Soto: Open 24 Hours, the inaugural artist commission for the Commons, presents liquor bottles that, in an act of documentation, the artist collected over the course of two years in her neighborhood of East Garfield Park. These objects will become art materials for Soto, as she collaborates with visitors over the course of the project to craft remembrances of her Puerto Rican heritage upon the bottles. Custom display cases that evoke a public gathering space, such as a gazebo or porch, house the bottles, which have been scrubbed of identifying commercial labels. Visitors are encouraged to take part in a series of writing stations, talks, performances, and workshops that consider the nature of urban space, cross-cultural dynamics, and the legacy of colonialism. As we prepare to launch our new, civically engaged space, we asked Soto to share more about her background and the research behind the project.

Edra Soto: Open 24 Hours is organized by January Parkos Arnall, Curator of Public Programs.
ARTIST WORKSHOPS
Sat and Sun, Oct 21 and 22, 2017, 11 am–4 pm
Sun, Nov 12, 2017, 11 am–3 pm
Sun, Dec 10, 2017, 11 am–3 pm
Sun, Jan 14, 2018, 11 am–3 pm
Edra Soto hosts monthly workshops in the Commons as part of Open 24 Hours, inviting visitors to transform discarded liquor bottles—in addition to refuse from their own neighborhoods—into beautiful art works.

EDRA SOTO WITH JANUARY PARKOS ARNALL
Fri, Dec 8, 2017, 6 pm; 7:30 pm, Open 24 Hours: “Wassup w/that ‘YAC?!” with Felicia Holman
Edra Soto discusses Open 24 Hours with curator January Parks Arnall. Following the talk, artist Felicia Holman presents “Wassup w/that ‘YAC?!”—an original performance centered on the perspective of a black, Gen X, cis-female cognac consumer unpacking the connection between African American culture and cognac.

UNTITLED, (AFTER RALPH AND LOUIE) BY ALEXANDRIA EREGBU
Fri, Dec 22, 2017, 6 pm
Join Mykele Deville and Jeffrey Michael Austin as they produce spoken word and musical performances using content and testimonials gathered from visitors throughout Open 24 Hours. These works consider, amplify, and react to the public’s shared thoughts and concerns about topics of community.

SOcial music by sadie woods
Fri, Oct 27, 2017, 6 pm
Sadie Woods examines celebrated voices in pop culture and highlights the cultural aspirations and struggles encoded in music. Woods DJs a set of anthems and mantras while verbally excavating sociopolitical meanings and calls for resistance.

Right on, be free—a sound essay by damon locks
Fri, Nov 10, 2017, 6 pm
Damon Locks investigates music as an outlet for African Americans to express frustration, sadness, joy, love, hate, and creativity. Locks, proposing record albums as aural history books, presents a music essay on race in America by way of a two-hour DJ set that spans many genres.

VARIETY HOURS—T/HERE AND THE/N
Fri, Dec 1, 2017, 6 pm
Join the castors of Worldplay—Alberto Aguilar, Alex Bradley Cohen, and Jesse Malmed—in an audience-engaged variety show that addresses the various themes brought up in Edra Soto's Open 24 Hours. Guest performers include Christopher Santiago, Jessica Campbell, Danielle Rosen, Erin Hayden, and Alejandro Jimenez Flores.

Line of fire by jefferson pinder
Fri, Feb 2, 2018, 6 pm
Jefferson Pinder investigates the idea of the museum as a safe space. The project speaks to random violence in Chicago neighborhoods as visitors' points of view begin to shift in order to avoid a performative “line of fire.”

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