



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – NEW EXHIBITION Fall 2024

CUNY art galleries present a new exhibition spread across three venues, tracing the motif of the chandelier in contemporary art, in all its bedazzling glory

Incandescence: The Chandelier in Contemporary Art

Works by 45 artists explore the motif and meaning of the chandelier through sculptural forms, photography, painting, drawing, installation and video. This stunning collaborative exhibition is spread across three CUNY venues.

Exhibition Venues and Dates:

Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Park West, Bronx, NY; lehmgallery.org

Fine Arts Building

September 14, 2024 - January 18, 2025; **Reception: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 5-8pm**

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10-4

Instagram: [@lehmancollegeartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/lehmancollegeartgallery)

Shirley Fiterman Art Center at BMCC, 81 Barclay Street, New York, NY; bmcc.cuny.edu/sfac

September 5, 2024 - January 4, 2025; **Reception: Thursday, September 5, 2024, 6-8pm**

Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 12 – 5, and by appointment

Instagram: [@shirleyfiterman.artcenter](https://www.instagram.com/shirleyfiterman.artcenter)

Hall of Fame Art Gallery at BCC2155 University Ave, Bronx NY; bcc.cuny.edu

Bliss Hall

October 17, 2024 - January 24, 2025; **Reception: Thursday, October 17, 2024, 12-3pm**

HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday 11-3, and by appointment

Instagram: [@bcc_artandmusic](https://www.instagram.com/bcc_artandmusic)

The motif of the chandelier serves as a powerful vehicle for contemporary artists to provoke deeper questions about forms and concepts that both beguile and create friction. The fusion of historical associations with contemporary interpretations furthers a dialogue between past and present and exploits tensions between “high” and “low,” particularly through questions of taste. Many of the works included in this exhibition explore juxtapositions of luxury and oppression, consumerism and necessity, elitism and populism. The chandelier is used as a means of critique, while also celebrated as an object of desire, and can represent a metaphorical illumination of the dark corners of history or personal memories, or provide a means of shedding light on forgotten or suppressed narratives.

Chandeliers first developed in the medieval period from candelabra into multi-branched light fixtures that hang from ceilings. They became increasingly opulent in the 18th century, featuring cascading strings of faceted glass and crystals which scattered light across the room. The elaborately decorated fixtures symbolized elegance and prestige and the extravagantly ornate examples that decorated palaces, ballrooms, and theaters, became synonymous with the wealth and sophistication of high society. Originally, they employed candles and with the progression to oil and then gas lamps and finally electric lights, chandeliers became more accessible in the 20th century, increasingly appearing in public spaces and more modest homes and locations.

However, the chandelier retains an allure, not least due to its distinctive placement above viewers’ heads, a vantage point associated with both reverence and power. Both formally and symbolically, it has captured the imagination of contemporary artists who utilize its distinct form to explore myriad issues, from formal design elements to socio-political concerns. Using the chandelier, artists have investigated aspects of power, social hierarchy, and memory, and have reimagined it both conceptually and materially through various mediums, including painting, sculpture, installation, video, and photography.

The exhibition, accompanied by a 140-page fully illustrated catalog, is curated by Bartholomew Bland, Patricia Cazorla, and Lisa Panzera.

Participating artists:

Deb Achak, Julie Allen, assume vivid astro focus, Liu Bolin, Andrea Bowers, John Bowman, Adrien Broom, Clare Celeste, Lily Cox-Richard, Petah Coyne, David Antonio Cruz, Deborah Czeresko, Marc Dennis, Lesley Dill, Lee Essex Doyle, Lauren Ewing, Gonzalo Fuenmayor, Sunil Garg, Kyungah Ham, Kirsten Hassenfeld, Julie Heffernan, Jean-Marc Hunt, Ran Hwang, Michiko Itatani, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Brad Kahlhamer, Beth Katleman, Philipp Lachenmann, Jean

Lowe, Kaoru Mansour, Virgil Marti, Lizbeth Mitty, Jonathan Monaghan, Andrew Moore, Matt Neff, Brian Oakes, Kayode Ojo, Carlos Rolón, Jeanne Silverthorne, Rachael Tarravechia, Barbara Earl Thomas, Karen Tompkins, Federico Uribe, Ken Weaver, Charlotta Westergren, Tim Wilson

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Gallery programming at Bronx Community College is supported in part by the Art and Music Fund of the BCC Association, Inc., the Art & Music Department, and the Office of Academic and Student Success.

About Lehman College Art Gallery:

Always free to the public, Lehman College Art Gallery has been serving the interests of our diverse audience from the Bronx and greater New York City since 1984. The gallery specializes in thematic group exhibitions that bring together famous artists with emerging talents. Education is an integral component of the Gallery's programming and provides the basis of community outreach—from young students to senior citizens.

About Shirley Fiterman Art Center:

The Shirley Fiterman Art Center presents programming dedicated to underrepresented artists and contemporary art that promotes critical thinking and sustains the preservation of the artistic and historic legacies of Tribeca and Lower Manhattan. Through its notable exhibitions the Fiterman Art Center seeks to enrich the educational mission of BMCC, serving as a resource for the college and surrounding communities by providing a place to engage with contemporary art and investigate its role in society at a venue that is free of charge and open to the public.

About Hall of Fame Gallery:

The Hall of Fame Art Gallery at Bronx Community College is committed to showcasing diverse and innovative works of art while providing a platform for engaging with contemporary social and cultural dialogues. Through exhibitions and events, the gallery aims to inspire and foster creativity in the Bronx community and beyond. The gallery is funded in part by the Art & Music Department of Bronx Community College, the BCC Art & Music Consortium and BCC, Inc.

About CUNY

The City University of New York CUNY, is the public university system of New York City. It is the largest urban university system in the United States, comprising 25 campuses: eleven senior colleges, seven community colleges, and seven professional institutions. The system includes more than a dozen art galleries and centers spread across its campuses.

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