

For Immediate Release:

Artists in Installation, Comics, Photography, Performance, and New Media Conceptualize the Edition



Enrique Chagoya, *One Recession Watchdog (Instant Update)*, 2011, mixed media with embedded electronics and wooden case, 18.25 x 8.5 x 4.5 in. Edition of 8. © Enrique Chagoya / Photo courtesy of Magnolia Editions

What is an edition, anyway?

May 24 – September 7, 2019

Opening Reception

Saturday, June 1, 2019, 6–8pm

San Francisco, CA. April 11, 2019 – *What is an edition, anyway?*, opening May 24, 2019 at the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts (MFA), engages contemporary artists and curators to present ready-made or creative work that responds to the titular question and explores the inventive expressions of the artist's multiple.

Since opening in 2017, MFA has collaborated with guest curators to interpret the themes present in the McEvoy Family Collection. *What is an edition, anyway?* furthers its mission by activating artists to contribute new works for presentation. The invited participants, each with practices deeply rooted in the Bay Area, variously employ photography, performance, illustration, film, installation, and new media to provoke further questions about creating artworks in editions.

Enrique Chagoya honors the value and role that the political poster holds to his own practice in editions with *One Recession Watch Dog (Instant Update)*, 2011. The redesigned American one-dollar bill is embedded with a real-time digital display of the national debt and the share measured per U.S. citizen.

Daniel Clowes provides the original cover drawing for *Eightball #8*, 1992, from his groundbreaking comic book series from the 1980s–2000s. Additionally, Clowes includes his

personal collection of Popsies—spring-loaded, hand painted figurines sold as novelty gag greetings in the 1960s and 70s—that share the graphic style of *Eightball*'s cast of characters.

Ala Ebtakar offers the Spring edition of a photographic series of four entitled *Thirty-Six Views of the Moon*, 2019, a body of work produced on the 50th anniversary of both the July 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing and the San Francisco State University strike for ethnic studies programs on campuses.

Jonn Herschend, co-founder of *THE THING* Quarterly, curates the series *Performance as Edition* featuring literary, comedic, and musical events with Porchlight, A Storytelling Series, the art collective Bonanza, and the punk band No Age. A limited run of posters for each performance, designed in collaboration with *THE THING* co-founder Will Rogan, are distributed at the events. Performance dates to be announced.

Stephanie Syjuco premieres *Excess Capital (Double or Nothing)*, 2019, an experimental bookstore that only sells used copies of *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy* (1887) by Karl Marx that the artist has purchased for minimum bids on eBay. Syjuco muses on how the book's many forms and editions—and its message—is valued in the marketplace by addressing this work to an audience of potential consumers. All proceeds from book sales are distributed to a charity of Syjuco's choosing.

Hank Willis Thomas considers photography and its engagement with history and politics in a study for an unrealized sculptural work from his *Punctum* series that is drawn from an iconic 1989 photograph by Alfred Yaghobzadeh of hands tearing down the Berlin Wall. In considering the vast multiplicity of images in contemporary culture, Willis Thomas presents a Mamiya RZ67 camera body (ca. 2004) as a ready-made object that encapsulates ideas about conceptual framing and the representation of three-dimensional space in photography.

Tanya Zimbardo curates a program of video works from Alison O'Daniel's *The Tuba Thieves* (2013–ongoing), for MFA's Screening Room. The series emerged in response to a spate of tuba thefts from Los Angeles high school marching bands. O'Daniel, who is hard of hearing, saw the loss of these tonally-rich instruments as analogous to her experiences of missing and filling in the gaps of conversations. O'Daniel joins Zimbardo at MFA for a conversation on Sunday, July 21.

Their contributions are interwoven within an exhibition of limited-edition prints, book and album cover designs, musical recordings, and other multiples from the McEvoy Family Collection and the collection of Thomas Cvikota. Cvikota—co-curator of the first *What is an edition, anyway?* exhibition for Mana Contemporary Chicago along with Susan Tallman, editor-in-chief of *Art in Print*—presents editioned objects ranging from coveted artworks, to commercially distributed products, to rare ephemera. Multiples from John Baldessari, Bruce Conner, Ann Hamilton, David Ireland, Jasper Johns, Barbara Kruger, Glenn Ligon, Allen Ruppersberg, and Andy Warhol—among others—survey editions as a by-product of culture made possible by generational and technological advances. Artworks from the Cvikota and McEvoy Family Collections acknowledge the edition as an original and democratic ideal for both the artist and beholder—art for everyone.

Artist biographies available here: bit.ly/McEvoyArts-ArtistBios-WhatIsAnEditionAnyway

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Exhibition Schedule***What is an edition, anyway?***

May 24 – September 7, 2019

Opening Reception

Saturday, June 1, 2019, 6–8pm

Oops I Did It Again: Stories About Repetition

Hosted by Porchlight, A Storytelling Series

Saturday, June 1, 4:30pm

It's Really Hard to Watch Films Properly

A guest lecture by former SFFILM Executive Director Noah Cowan

Thursday, July 18, 7pm

That's Funny

A stand-up comedy performance emceed by Bonanza

Saturday, July 20, 6pm

Artist Talk: Alison O'Daniel in Conversation with Tanya Zimbardo

Sunday, July 21, 2019, 3pm

Score from the Day Before

An audiovisual concert and tape-recording workshop presented by No Age

Saturday, September 7, 5pm

Additional performances, talks, and workshops take place throughout the run of the exhibition and are announced at mcevoyarts.org. *What is an edition, anyway?* is presented in tandem with the San Francisco Art Book Fair (July 19–21, 2019). Tickets are made available at mcevoyarts.eventbrite.com in late-April.

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McEvoy Foundation for the Arts

The McEvoy Foundation for the Arts (MFA) presents exhibitions and events that engage, expand, and challenge themes present in the McEvoy Family Collection. Established in 2017, MFA creates an open, intimate, and welcoming place for private contemplation and public discussion about art and culture. Rooted in the creative legacies of the San Francisco Bay Area, MFA embodies a far-reaching vision of the McEvoy Family Collection's potential to facilitate and engage conversations on the practice of contemporary art. MFA invites artists, curators, and thinkers with varied perspectives to respond to the Collection. Each year, these collaborations produce exhibitions in MFA's gallery, new media programs in the Screening Room, as well as many film, music, literary, and performing arts events each year.

The McEvoy Family Collection features works in a wide array of media such as painting, photography, drawing, video, sculpture, and installation. Artists include Mamma Andersson, Diane Arbus, Carol Bove, Brassai, Richard Diebenkorn, Lee Friedlander, David Hockney, Alex Katz, Goshka Macuga, Christian Marclay, Robert Motherwell, Nathan Oliveira, Dario Robleto, Larry Sultan, Mark di Suvero, Wayne Thiebaud, Andy Warhol, James Welling, Edward Weston, Garry Winogrand, Libby Black, and Lisa Yuskavage, among others. A shared theme of books, newspapers, and other media reflects the family's long career in publishing.

For Media Interviews, Images and Editorial Requests:

Wendy Norris, Norris Communications
(415) 307-3853; wendy@norriscommunications.biz

Nate Gellman, Communications Manager
(415) 580-7605; ngellman@mcevoyarts.org

For More Information:

McEvoy Foundation for the Arts
1150 25th Street, Building B
San Francisco, CA 94107
415.580.7605
mcevoyarts.org
info@mcevoyarts.org
@mcevoyarts

Gallery Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 10am – 6pm
Saturday: 11am – 5pm
Sunday–Monday: Closed

Exhibitions are free and open to the public.