Institute of Contemporary Art
University of Pennsylvania

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# 2025 Advance Exhibition Schedule

*First major museum surveys of artists Carl Cheng and Mavis Pusey,*
*in addition to the second iteration of annual Entryways commission*

The Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia's 2025 season features the first solo museum exhibitions of underrecognized artists Carl Cheng and Mavis Pusey, presenting new research and in-depth analysis on two artists with longstanding creative practices. Culminating from years of close study into both artists' lives and careers, these exhibitions underscore ICA's commitment to advancing scholarship on and conservation of work from artists who have made pivotal contributions to contemporary art. In addition to these major solo presentations, ICA presents the second iteration of its annual *Entryways* commission with Philadelphia-based artist Xenobia Bailey, who like Cheng and Pusey, comes from a multidisciplinary training in industrial design and textiles.

*Carl Cheng, Alternative TV #3, 1974-2016. Plastic chassis, acrylic water tank, air pump, LED lighting and controller, electrical cord, aquarium hardware conglomerated rocks, and plastic plants. Courtesy the artist and Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles.*

***Carl Cheng: Nature Never Loses***
January 18–April 6, 2025

Marking the first in-depth survey of Carl Cheng's prescient, genre-defying work from the 1960s to the present, the major traveling survey transforms both floors of the ICA with more than 60 works from the prolific artist's career. *Nature Never Loses* highlights the innovative and interdisciplinary nature of Cheng's practice, one which has been largely excluded from art historical narratives to date, and animates the arc of the artist's career through a presentation that is multidisciplinary, ephemeral, process-based, and immersive. Cheng began his career in the experimental context of the Southern California art scene and the post-war aerospace industry, resulting in artworks that operate at the intersection of identity, technology, and ecology. *Carl Cheng: Nature Never Loses* is organized by Alex Klein, Head Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, The Contemporary Austin.

The exhibition is organized for ICA by Denise Ryner, Andrea B. Laporte Curator.

*Mavis Pusey, Within Manhattan, 1977. Oil on canvas.*

***Mavis Pusey: Mobile Images***
July 12–December 7, 2025

Organized in partnership with The Studio Museum in Harlem, *Mobile Images* is the first solo museum exhibition of the geometric abstractionist Mavis Pusey (b. Sept. 17, 1928, d. April 20, 2019), illuminating her often underrecognized, yet influential 50-year career trajectory. This extensive survey of more than 60 paintings, drawings, prints, and archival materials, many of which have never been on view publicly, examines Pusey's incredible decades-long career from Retreat, Jamaica to New York, London, and Paris, and includes extensive research and preservation initiatives for the artist's work following the dissemination of her paintings across North America in her later years. The exhibition includes a publication and is curated by Hallie Ringle, ICA's Interim Director and Daniel and Brett Sundheim Chief Curator.

*Xenobia Bailey, Great Day in the Morning, circa 2000. Hand crocheted Mandala.*

***Entryways: Xenobia Bailey***
July 12, 2025–June 6, 2026

The second iteration of *Entryways*, a series that commissions artists to activate the facade of ICA's building, highlights the work of Philadelphia-based artist Xenobia Bailey. Known for her unique fiber practice, Bailey draws inspiration from the aesthetics of funk and the social movements of the 1970s, a style she refers to as "Funktional Design." This project is curated by Denise Ryner, Andrea B. Laporte Curator and is presented in partnership with Maharam, North America's leading creator of textiles for commercial and residential interiors.

**About the Institute of Contemporary Art | University of Pennsylvania**

The Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania (ICA Philadelphia) is a global hub for contemporary art and ideas. Free and open to all, ICA Philadelphia is dedicated to supporting artistic practices across disciplines and to serving as a laboratory for risk-taking, community-building, and knowledge-creation. Since 1963, ICA Philadelphia has championed the University's commitment to cultivating the next generation of imaginative creators and thinkers. Through commissions, exhibitions, programs, publications, and special projects, ICA Philadelphia fosters bold experimentation, curiosity, and discovery. Learn more at icaphila.org.

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