

SPECTRUM chicago | OCT. 7 – 10, 2026 At The Mart

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Media Contact: Linda Mariano

408-718-3730

linda@redwoodartgroup.com

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Spectrum Chicago Celebrates Successful Inaugural Edition at THE MART

New contemporary art fair brings together 70+ exhibitors, dynamic programming, and a vibrant community of artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts

CHICAGO, IL — October 2026 — Spectrum Chicago made an exciting debut at THE MART, October 7–10, 2026, welcoming art enthusiasts, collectors, designers, and industry professionals for four days of artistic discovery, engaging programming, and creative connections. Produced by Redwood Art Group, the well-attended inaugural fair featured more than 70 international, national, and local galleries and artists, presenting an eclectic mix of contemporary art in one of Chicago's most iconic destinations for art and design.

From the Opening Night Preview through the final day, visitors explored original artwork spanning painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and more. With opportunities to meet artists, learn about their creative processes, and discover new works, Spectrum Chicago created an inviting environment where art and personal connections took center stage.

"Chicago has such a rich and vibrant arts community, and we were thrilled by the enthusiasm surrounding Spectrum Chicago's debut," said **Eric Smith, CEO of Redwood Art Group**. "Our vision was to create a welcoming, energetic marketplace where artists could share their work, connect with new audiences, and build lasting relationships. Seeing that vision come to life at THE MART was incredibly rewarding, and we're grateful to everyone who helped make this inaugural edition possible."

Art, Inspiration, and Discovery

Among the fair's standout attractions was the **Spectrum Art Theater**, where enthusiastic audiences enjoyed three days of live art demonstrations, artist talks, panel discussions, and creative performances. The programming offered an engaging look behind the artwork, inviting visitors to explore the inspiration, techniques, and stories that shape the creative process.

Spectrum Chicago's three inaugural nonprofit partners—**Chicago Public Art Group**, **Twist Out Cancer**, and **Pigment International**—played an important role in bringing the Art Theater to life. Highlights included interactive mosaic and mural demonstrations, discussions exploring the healing power of art and storytelling, conversations about public art stewardship, and presentations celebrating the influence of Chicago artists.

Another highlight was the **Spectrum FOCUS Pavilion**, presented by Jason Perez Art, featuring more than 40 national and international artists working in outsider, street, pop, and urban art. Live painting demonstrations, artist interactions, and DJ performances created an energetic atmosphere that added another dimension to the fair experience.

The **Discoveries Collection** invited visitors to explore a curated selection of original artworks priced at \$3,000 or less, while the **Spotlight Program** recognized five distinctive artists for their creative vision and artistic contributions: Carol Ryan of Carol Ryan Fine Art, Stephen Ursino, Maks Simone, David Seligman of Seligman Studios, and John Denis.

Recognizing Outstanding Exhibitors

Spectrum Chicago also celebrated artistic excellence with its inaugural Exhibitor Awards, recognizing outstanding presentations, creativity, and innovation across the fair.

The **Director's Award** honored 2RT Studio, Octavio & Oscar Morales, and Jason Perez Art. **Best International Exhibitor** awards went to Ales X Luisa and Mathilda Martin, while **Best Booth Design** honors recognized ESOM Art and Diana Elaine Naylor. **Best Sculpture Exhibitor** awards were presented to McCarty Arts and Josy Thomas Studio.

Building on an Exciting Beginning

With its inaugural edition complete, Spectrum Chicago has established a new platform for artistic discovery and meaningful connections in the heart of Chicago. From emerging talents to established artists and galleries, the fair celebrated the diversity of contemporary art while fostering the conversations and relationships that make the art world thrive.

For exhibiting information and the latest event updates, visit **SpectrumChicago.com**

About Spectrum Chicago

Spectrum Chicago is a contemporary art fair celebrating artistic discovery through original works by independent artists, emerging galleries, studios, and artist collectives. Featuring engaging exhibitions, live demonstrations, educational programming, and opportunities to connect directly with artists, Spectrum Chicago offers an inspiring and approachable experience for collectors and art lovers alike. Held annually at THE MART in Chicago, Spectrum Chicago is where Chicago discovers what's next in art.

About Redwood Art Group

Since 2009, Redwood Art Group (RWAG) has been revolutionizing the global fine art community by helping artists and gallery owners grow their businesses through fine art exhibitions and publications, art business education, mentoring, marketing, and social media. Today, RWAG owns and operates fine art fairs across the country: Artexpo New York, Spectrum Miami, Art Santa Fe, Red Dot Miami, and the new Spectrum Chicago. Artexpo New York, the world's largest fine art trade show for nearly 50 years, attracts more than 20,000 art enthusiasts, including nearly 2,500 industry buyers. Spectrum Miami and Red Dot Miami take place during Miami Art Week, an annual attraction that draws over 150,000 art collectors to the city. Over the past sixteen years, RWAG has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to their events, sold millions of dollars' worth of art, and helped thousands of unrepresented and established artists launch or grow their careers. Aside from hosting multiple high-end art fairs throughout the year, RWAG also owns *Art Business News*. For more information, visit redwoodartgroup.com