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## The MCA Presents New Series Dedicated to Emerging Chicago Artists

Starting this fall, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (MCA) begins a fast-paced new project series, 12 x 12: New Artists/New Work, designed to showcase the work of emerging Chicago-based artists. This series of exhibits occurs monthly allowing each new presentation to coincide with the MCA's popular First Fridays events. The first show opens on Friday, October 5, featuring the work of Laura Mosquera.

This innovative project series provides an excellent opportunity for the many talented emerging artists in Chicago who are at a crucial stage in the development of their work, but are confronted with limited opportunities for exhibition. Complementing the MCA's larger exhibition program, 12 x 12 will stimulate awareness and discussion by introducing original and challenging work to the wide audience of MCA visitors. The artists, chosen by consensus among the MCA's team of curators, will occupy the McCormick Tribune Gallery on the MCA's main level.

This initiative is intended to open up the program - and the vision - of the Museum to provide a fresh, up-to-the minute view of new and unfamiliar developments taking place throughout the studios of Chicago. Information about the artist as well as a curatorial essay will be posted on the MCA's website in conjunction with each exhibition. Support for this series is generously provided by Banana Republic. Additional support provided by an anonymous donor.

### Laura Mosquera

Laura Mosquera's seductive paintings and drawings feature people drawn from contemporary culture adrift in fields of color and pattern that combine to form an unreal background of spatial dislocation. Depicting a web of relationships that have no set narrative, Mosquera's work describes the anxiety of detachment while representing the beauty of the shared experience. For the MCA presentation, Mosquera will produce an original, site-specific wall painting that will be displayed alongside a new painting, *Can You Feel It* (2001), and several new drawings. Mosquera studied architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and received her BFA in 1996, and her MFA in 1999, both in Painting and Drawing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

### Upcoming Artists

Artists selected for the 12 x 12 series thus far include: Nicolas Brown, Pate Conaway, Paul Dickinson, Rashid Johnson, Laura Mosquera, Melissa Oresky, and Oli Watt.