SAIC Announces New Home for Its Iconic Galleries in Chicago’s Loop

Gallery and Studio Space at 33 East Washington Street Slated to Open Fall 2020

CHICAGO, February 26, 2020–The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), a global leader in art and design education, today announced that the School will bring together students, faculty, staff, and the public in a newly renovated street-level space in the heart of Chicago’s Loop at 33 East Washington Street.

SAIC will relocate its art galleries, Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies offices, and graduate student studios from the Sullivan Galleries at 33 South State Street where they have been housed for a decade. Featuring the work of acclaimed artists and emerging talent, the gallery space will open to the public in fall 2020.

Located at the corner of Washington and Wabash, the four-story, 62,000 square-foot space offers 26,000 square feet of public galleries, 60 individual studios for SAIC’s graduate students, three critique spaces, offices, and a student lounge and work area.

As the public arm of SAIC’s Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Galleries will feature cutting-edge, thought-provoking contemporary art. The galleries will seek to generate new research around issues, ideas, and professional practices in art and design while stimulating dialogue among the wider Chicago arts community.

“There is so much happening at SAIC’s galleries—from showcasing the work of our global student body to housing provocative exhibitions featuring leading artists from around the world like Yoko Ono and SAIC alums Jeff Koons and Rashid Johnson—and I am so excited that we can bring these artists closer to Chicago’s residents and visitors through our new, street-level space at 33 East Washington Street,” said SAIC President Elissa Tenny.

The opening of the galleries and studios at 33 East Washington Street marks a step forward in SAIC’s commitment to sustainability. The space features energy-efficient lighting, a brand-new ventilation system, recycled carpet, and resurfaced flooring from the building’s original 106-year-old floor. On January 1, the School announced that the campus achieved its goal of becoming carbon-neutral, a goal that was set in 2008 after joining the Second Nature Carbon Commitment.
More details on the space will be shared throughout the spring and summer. For more information on SAIC, please visit saic.edu.

The street-level entrance to SAIC’s new gallery space at 33 East Washington Street.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is a top-five art and design college. The school and its alumni are recognized for their cultural contributions to the world, including establishing the Art Institute of Chicago museum, which remains a unique differentiator for the school’s campus. For more information, please visit saic.edu.