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247 and the Renaissance Society Announce Partnership to Support the Next Generation of Artists and Creatives

Chicago, IL, USA and Milan, ITALY... The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago and 247 are pleased to announce a new partnership centered around the two organizations' shared commitment to identify and promote artists and creatives by giving them the resources, networks, and platforms required to expand their visions and grow their practices.

About 247

247 is a global brand development platform that supports the creation and production of new creative vehicles by managing a portfolio of leading international fashion labels and emerging talents. Through a wide range of services including finance, production, and sales, 247's dynamic and holistic business approach helps brands thrive and grow into the world's creative leaders.

About the Renaissance Society

The Renaissance Society, known as "the Ren," is an independent contemporary art museum that presents exhibitions, events, and publications, in addition to a robust editions program. Founded in 1915, the Ren supports artists with big ideas and groundbreaking work, connecting them to new audiences and opportunities.

Operating from the University of Chicago's campus in Hyde Park (though independent from the university), the Ren is a staple in the international contemporary art scene, particularly well known for giving world-renowned artists pivotal exhibitions early in their careers—artists such as: Isa Genzken, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Mike Kelley, Zoe Leonard, Kerry James Marshall, Kara Walker, and most recently Meriem Bennani and Diane Severin Nguyen, among others.

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

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247 x The Ren Shared Ethos and Values

The Ren and 247 share a crucial core value: fostering a generative platform for creators. Both organizations invest time, space, and resources in promising talent, allowing artists to push the boundaries of their practice and build their careers to the fullest potential. The common goal is to support future generations of artists, making possible a world where emerging talent, new ideas, and powerful visions are nurtured and propelled. The Renaissance Society's gallery and 247's showroom are incubators and laboratories for creative thought, expression, and collaboration.

The Ren's 2022/23 Program

In 2022-23, the organization's 107th year, the Ren will present four exhibitions featuring new commissions and artist firsts.

The season begins on **September 10, 2022** with a group exhibition, ***Fear of Property***, which will explore different forms of property, extending from tangible things like objects and land, to the more immaterial realms of data, futures trading, and artificial intelligence. The exhibition will feature artists such as Kevin Beasley, Ghislaine Leung, Rose Salane, among others.

On **December 3, 2022**, the Ren will present the first solo museum exhibition of Chicago-based artist **Max Guy**, which will feature a multifaceted theatrical installation centered around the story of *The Wizard of Oz*—and its Motown-produced retelling in *The Wiz*.

Drawing from her research on agricultural and industrial architecture, **Aria Dean** will present a new film and installation, opening **February 5, 2023**, surveying the interior of an American slaughterhouse. The project will consider the importance of these structures at the intersection of modernist architecture, urban design, and Blackness.

Finally, the season will conclude on **May 6, 2023** with a project by **Shahryar Nashat**, a carte blanche of sorts diving into the mind of the artist as an editor, a curator, an observer of art and its histories.

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The Ren will also present two programs as a part of its *Intermissions* performance series: a new co-commission by artist **Nour Mobarak** in November, 2022, and a new work by artist **Özgür Kar** in April, 2023.

Guy, Dean, and Nashat's exhibitions will be accompanied by beautiful, dedicated publications, distributed internationally by University of Chicago Press.

247 is the lead partner in making this season of ambitious exhibitions and programming possible.

Giacomo Piazza is the Co-Founder and Director of 247, the strategic and investment platform founded in 2008 in Milan, Italy. Piazza has numerous years of experience in the fashion business from managing the portfolios of established brands such as Kenzo, Zegna, A.P.C, Missoni, and Ami, to scouting emerging talents for KNWLS, Rhude, Mowalola, Dion Lee, RANRA, ANDREADAMO, Collina Strada, and many others.

Myriam Ben Salah is the Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Renaissance Society. Since joining the Ren in 2020, she has curated exhibitions by artists such as Alex Ayed and Lydia Ourahmane, Meriem Bennani, and Diane Severin Nguyen. Prior to joining the Ren, Ben Salah co-organized *Made in LA 2020*, the Hammer Museum's biennial in Los Angeles, and from 2009 to 2016 was responsible for special projects and public programs at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris. Ben Salah was the editor-in-chief of *Kaleidoscope* magazine from 2016 to 2019 and is a contributor to numerous art publications.

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