

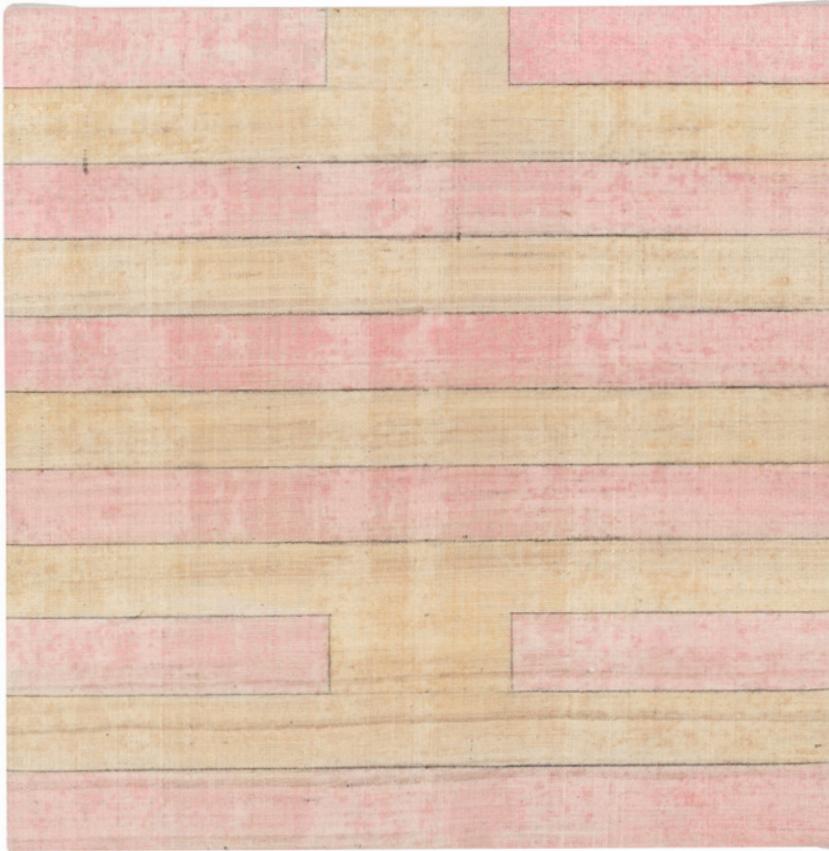


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THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY
JANUARY-JULY 2026

LEAH KE YI ZHENG

CHANGE, I CHING (64 PAINTINGS)



Leah Ke Yi Zheng's upcoming exhibition presents a complete series of 64 paintings based on the hexagrams of the *I Ching* (Book of Changes), a foundational text in Chinese philosophy. Each painting reflects on a hexagram not through literal representation, but through an evolving visual language shaped by abstraction, intuition, and the interplay of light and material. Working with silk, hardwood, and hand-built stretchers, Zheng brings together traditional Chinese materiality and conceptual art methodologies to explore transformation, multiplicity, and the logic of variation. Her practice is influenced by thinkers such as John Cage and Yuk Hui, and rooted in a dialogue between Eastern and Western modes of thought. In this project, the *I Ching* is not only a reference—it is a method, a structure, and a philosophical companion. The exhibition becomes a meditation on change itself: how it is read, made visible, and experienced through painting.

SAT, JAN 10, 2–4PM

Opening reception

With artist talk at 4pm

Lead support for this exhibition is provided by Murat Ahmed & Katherine Mackenzie and School Museum Fund, The Hees Family. Principal support is provided by Gay-Young Cho and Christopher Chiu.

EVENTS

CONCERT

ELI KESZLER

SUN, FEB 15, 2PM
RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

Eli Keszler is a Grammy-nominated artist, composer, and percussionist based in New York. Whether performing an improvised solo set at the drum kit or writing an electro-acoustic score for a film, he brings an agile experimentation to his work. For this site-specific appearance, Keszler performs live in the gallery space in the afternoon light. Within this unique architectural and acoustic setting, he offers his own take on some of the dynamics at play in Leah Ke Yi Zheng's exhibition, including change and variation, iterative multiplicity, and logics of impermanence. Keszler has previously worked with a wide range of artists including Oneohtrix Point Never, Laurel Halo, Jordan Wolfson, Kevin Beasley, and Laure Prouvost, to name just a few.

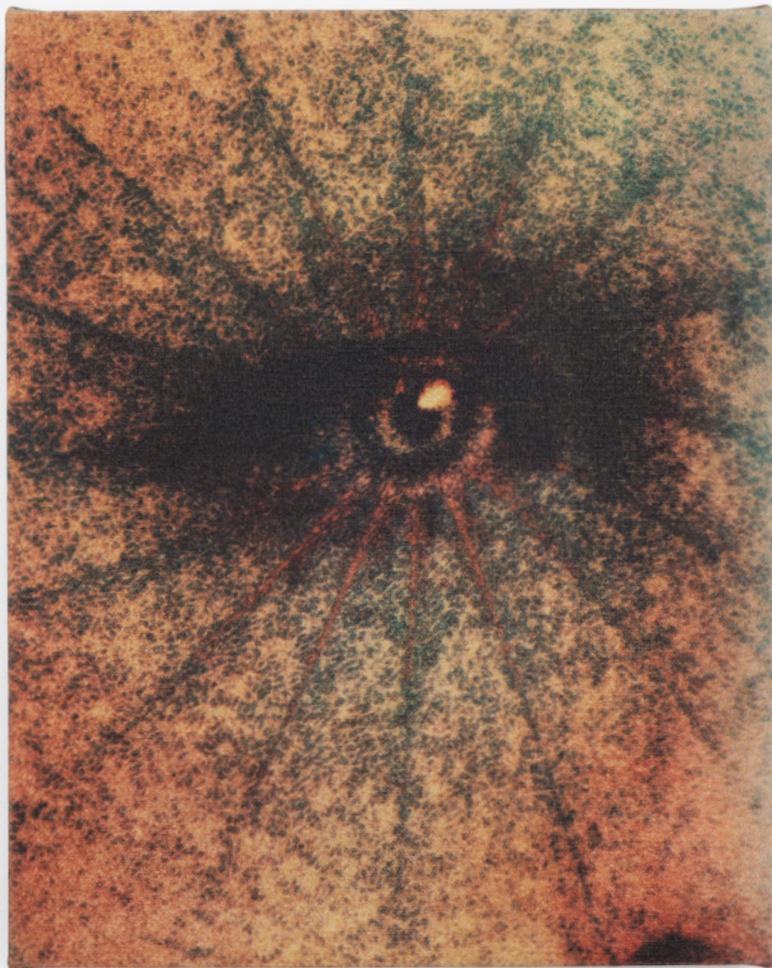
DISCUSSION

SPECIAL GUESTS
OF THE ARTIST

SUN, MAR 22, 2PM
RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

For this informal discussion in the gallery space (styled as a kind of living-room conversation), Leah Ke Yi Zheng is joined by three people from her close circle: artists Danny Bredar and Gaylen Gerber, and her son Oscar Zheng. Each of them brings an intimate familiarity with her practice and a deeply personal perspective on her work. In an impromptu, unscripted exchange, they surface aspects of Zheng's exhibition that might not emerge in a formal artist talk. Their conversation mirrors the spirit of the *I Ching* itself, which, according to Zheng, absorbs all aspects of life.





Left: John Opera, *Solar Eye*, 2025.

PALOMAR

PART 1: MAY 2–JUN 7, 2026
PART 2: JUN 10–JUL 12, 2026

Palomar is a group exhibition that unfolds in two parts, each five weeks long. Like a double exposure, some elements remain solid while others shift and change. Watching the sky, the exhibition reflects different forms of observation in everyday life and in a scientific register. *Palomar* also draws out varied experiences of time itself, as it is marked and measured and perceived. While some works evoke feelings of solace or loss, others suggest longer time horizons, following celestial patterns or picturing a future yet to arrive.

The exhibition borrows its title from the name of an observatory on a California mountaintop, which once had the largest optical telescope in the world. It lost that distinction in 1976, but it's still used to study celestial objects. In 1983, Italo Calvino wrote a book, *Mr. Palomar*, about a seeker of the cosmic in the everyday who shares his name with that place. Looking up to the sky can be a way to understand one's place in the world. Perceptions and understandings also change. An earlier age of public optimism around space exploration and technological progress has given way to a new era, but the sky is still part of our lives. Shadowed by beauty and grief and the steady passing of the days, there is still much to be found high above us.

SAT, MAY 2, 4-7PM

Opening reception for Part 1

With talk at 4pm between curator Karsten Lund and Steven L. Bridges

SUN, MAY 17, 1PM

Walkthrough (Part 1)

Led by Karsten Lund

SAT, JUN 13, 4-7PM

Opening reception for Part 2

With performance at 4pm

THU, JUN 18, 6:30PM

Walkthrough (Part 2)

Led by Karsten Lund

This exhibition is supported by the Friends of Palomar Patron Circle (as of 12/1/2025): Maria Christina & Guy-Karim Caland Puymartin.



Kathleen Ryan, *Satellite in Repose* (detail), 2018.

PALOMAR
EVENTS

WORKSHOP

PALOMAR

SUN, MAY 17, 3–5PM
RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

This seminar-style discussion, led by Karsten Lund and Joshi Radin Flores, offers a chance to talk about *Palomar* in a small group setting, digging deeper into the exhibition together. While starting with the works on view, the conversation will gradually delve into some of the underlying ideas and questions that run through the show. How does the sky touch our lives today? How do technological developments infuse this understanding over time? What role does photography play in all this? How might we describe the emotional landscape of our era? Prior knowledge isn't required, just curiosity and a willingness to jump into the conversation. A number of readings shared in advance will inform the discussion. Reservation required.

CONCERT

**WHITNEY JOHNSON,
LIA KOHL,
MACIE STEWART**

SAT, JUN 13, 4PM
RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

This new trio—formed by three of Chicago's most inventive musicians, each of them an instrumentalist and composer—has developed a shared methodology that starts with free improvisation and adds in a variety of analog tape techniques: looping, manipulating, slowing down, and speeding up their own

recorded material. To mark the opening of part 2 of *Palomar*, they perform live within the exhibition, presenting a new piece titled *Circumbinary Moons*. As they shape and reshape a sonic landscape for this setting, they are also playing with experiences of time. Sound becomes a series of orbital loops with their own cycles, following elliptical paths before returning to a point of origin.

PERFORMANCE LECTURE

**DAY & NIGHT
WITH SARAH AND
JOSEPH BELKNAP**

SUN, JUN 21, 3PM & 10PM
LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

On the summer solstice, join artists Sarah and Joseph Belknap for a two-part event that spans day and night, as they look up first to the sun, and later, returning after dark, to the moon and stars. For years, the two have been writing a love letter to the sun—thinking about the ways it has been observed and recorded, and its stories and mythologies—which they share as a visual performance lecture in the afternoon. That same night, come back for an outdoor viewing of the moon and sky through a telescope, led by the artists, as they share their collected notes about our moon and the sunlight that illuminates it.



Jordan Kantor, Untitled (Challenger), 2007.



Alasdair Roberts and Fredrik Rasten. Photo: Luke Fowler.



Félícia Atkinson.

Fredrik Rasten and Alasdair Roberts is co-presented with Frequency Festival Chicago and the Gray Center for Arts & Inquiry.

Dorothy Carlos and isabel crespardo is co-presented with Lampo.

CONCERTS

FREDRIK RASTEN ALASDAIR ROBERTS

SAT, FEB 28, 6PM & 8PM
BOND CHAPEL
1025 EAST 58TH ST

Fredrik Rasten (solo) at 6PM
Fredrik Rasten & Alasdair Roberts at 8PM

Berlin-based Norwegian guitarist Fredrik Rasten is a fervent sonic explorer with a love for British folk music and the electrifying harmonies of just intonation. His solo performances involve layers of resonating guitars as he uses e-bows, strumming, and picking to generate immersive atmosphere. Following a solo set by Rasten, the second part of the program presents the US premiere of his duo project with storied Scottish folksinger Alasdair Roberts. Together they survey old ballads as durational vehicles, singing together and blending traditional melodies and narratives with the expansive guitar harmonies at the core of Rasten's practice.

DOROTHY CARLOS AND ISABEL CRESPO PARDO

SAT, MAR 14, 8PM
LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
PERFORMANCE PENTHOUSE
915 E 60TH ST

Dorothy Carlos is an experimental cellist and composer working in improvised performance and spatial audio. isabel crespardo is an NYC-based vocalist, improviser-composer, and interdisciplinary artist. For this

performance, their second collaboration as a duo, they present a new co-created work threading written and found texts to create a series of vignettes. Together, they will use a combination of voices, cello, and electronics to experiment with song form.

FÉLICIA ATKINSON

FRI, MAY 8, 8PM
LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
PERFORMANCE PENTHOUSE
915 E 60TH ST

For Félícia Atkinson, human voices inhabit an ecology alongside many other things that don't speak in the conventional sense: landscapes, images, books, memories, ideas. The French electro-acoustic composer and visual artist makes music that animates these other possible voices in conversation with her own, collaging field recording, MIDI instrumentation, and snippets of essayistic language. Her layered compositions tell stories that stretch and fold time and place, stories in which she is the narrator but not the protagonist. Atkinson lives on the wild coast of Normandy and has played music since the early 2000s.

Also join us for two more concerts on the occasions of our Leah Ke Yi Zheng and Palomar exhibitions:

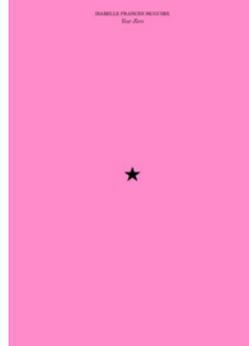
ELI KESZLER: details on p. 4.
WHITNEY JOHNSON, LIA KOHL,
AND MACIE STEWART: details on p. 10.

OTHER EVENTS



BOOK LAUNCH
**GHISSLAINE LEUNG:
 HOLDINGS (2015-2025)**
 WED, JAN 14, 7PM
 ARTISTS SPACE
 11 CORTLANDT ALLEY
 NEW YORK

For this special event in New York, the Renaissance Society and WIELS (Brussels), come together to celebrate the release of two major monographs: *Ghislaine Leung: Holdings (2015-2025)* and *Jef Geys: Catalogue Raisonné*. Produced in conjunction with recent exhibitions by Leung and Geys at the Renaissance Society and WIELS, respectively, each book offers a larger view of the artist's practice and how their work unsettles the boundaries between art and daily life. A discussion featuring Ghislaine Leung, Karsten Lund from the Renaissance Society, and Charlotte Friling and Dirk Snauwaert from WIELS will draw out resonances and dissonances between these two singular artists of different generations.



BOOK LAUNCH
**ISABELLE FRANCES
 MCGUIRE: YEAR ZERO**
 WED, JAN 21, 7PM
 CHICAGO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
 12 S MICHIGAN AVE

Join us to celebrate the publication of *Isabelle Frances McGuire: Year Zero*. Growing out of McGuire's 2024 exhibition at the Renaissance Society, the book tugs at various loops in American culture, from iconic figures that keep coming back, like Abraham Lincoln, vampires, and Frankenstein, to other familiar stories of "good men and monsters." The book also offers glimpses behind the scenes of the show and channels its unruly energy. The artist will be joined in discussion by Karsten Lund from the Renaissance Society, and Lucas Reif, who designed the book.

Coming soon
 DALA NASSER
 KARIMAH ASHADU: TENDERED

EDITIONS



ISABELLE FRANCES MCGUIRE
Frankenstein's Monster, 2025
 6.5 × 2.5 × 1 in. (each piece varies slightly)
 Black Porcelain
 Edition of 3 + 1 AP
\$2,500
Members of the Ren Giving Community receive a 10% discount.

This limited-edition porcelain figurine brings to life the underworld monster from Isabelle Frances McGuire's exhibition, *Year Zero*. Originally based on anonymous medical scans made available for public use, this eerie figure embodies McGuire's unique approach to translating digital 3D models into tangible material forms. This desk-sized Frankenstein's monster has undergone another transformation as McGuire trades the original synthetic materials for artisanal ceramics methods. Each hand-cast figure features a white crackle glaze that shimmers with pink and green hues against a black porcelain body. No two are exactly alike. The edition marks McGuire's first public presentation of ceramic work after years of practice.



DESIGNED BY DIEGO MARCON
Ren Socs
\$35
Ren Members and Giving Community receive a 10% discount.

Created in collaboration with Diego Marcon, these limited-edition "Ren Socs" were designed exclusively for the Renaissance Society. The socks are gender-neutral and one size fits most, making them the perfect wearable keepsake from Marcon's exhibition *Krapfen*, which was recently on view this fall.

All proceeds from editions and merchandise sales directly support Ren programs through the generosity of participating artists. For more new and recent editions and publications, visit store.renaissancesociety.org.

SAVE THE DATE REN BEN 2026 BY MAURIZIO CATTELAN



Maurizio Cattelan. Photo: Alberto Zanetti.

WED, APR 8, 2026
7-10PM

JOIN US

The Renaissance Society lives in conversation with artists, creating the conditions for ambitious work to emerge through trust and collaboration. We provide the time, resources, and freedom artists need to realize their far reaching ideas.

Every contribution—large or small—directly sustains this mission and connects you to the Ren's work.

Whether you join as a Member or through our Ren Giving Community, your support keeps the Ren free and open to all. You make possible bold ideas, rigorous dialogue, and artist-driven experimentation at the highest level.

Join us from just \$8.33 a month to get a members-only, artist-designed gift, plus other great benefits.

renaissancesociety.org/membership

SUPPORTERS

Major annual support for the Renaissance Society is provided by the Mellon Foundation.

Renaissance Society programs are supported by Teiger Foundation and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

General operations are supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and The Provost's Discretionary Fund at the University of Chicago.

All Renaissance Society publications are made possible by The Mansueto Foundation Publications Program.

VISITING INFORMATION

All exhibitions and events take place at the Renaissance Society unless otherwise noted.

All are free, open to the public.

Follow us on Instagram: @RenSoc

Open hours

Wed-Fri: 12-6pm
Sat and Sun: 10am-6pm

The Renaissance Society
5811 S Ellis Ave
Cobb Hall, 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60657

773 702 8670
info@renaissancesociety.org
www.renaissancesociety.org

Closed Mondays, Tuesdays,
and between exhibitions

Group visits

We are pleased to welcome visits from schools, universities, and other groups, and our library and archives are open to researchers by appointment. Please contact us to arrange a visit.

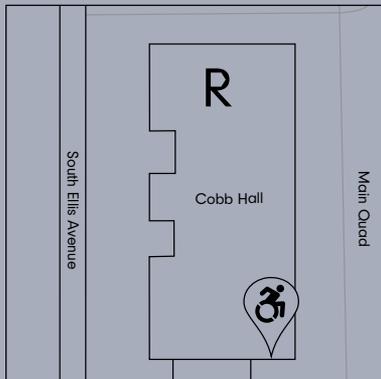
Accessibility

The Renaissance Society is located on the fourth floor of Cobb Hall, reachable by elevator. The building is accessible from sidewalk level via platform lift (marked on the map below). One gender-neutral, wheelchair accessible restroom is available on every floor. Service animals are welcome, and large-print gallery texts and portable seating are available upon request at the front desk.

Physical accessibility details for off-site event spaces may vary. Please check individual event pages on our website for specifics. Further accessibility information is available online at renaissancesociety.org/visit.

CART: most artist talks and lectures feature onsite live captioning.

For access inquiries, requests, or feedback, please contact Michael Harrison by email at maharrison@uchicago.edu.



CALENDAR

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WED, JAN 21, 7PM	Book Launch: <i>Isabelle Frances McGuire</i> , <i>Year Zero</i>	PG 14
SUN, FEB 15, 2PM	Concert: <i>Eli Keszler</i>	PG 4
SAT, FEB 28, 6PM & 8PM	Concert: <i>Fredrik Rasten</i> and <i>Alasdair Roberts</i>	PG 12
SAT, MAR 14, 8PM	Concert: <i>Dorothy Carlos</i> and <i>isabel crespo pardo</i>	PG 13
SUN, MAR 22, 2PM	Discussion: <i>Special Guests of the Artist</i>	PG 4
WED, APR 8, 7-10PM	RENBEN 2026	PG 16
SAT, MAY 2, 4PM	Opening reception and curator talk: <i>Palomar (Part 1)</i>	PG 7
FRI, MAY 8, 8PM	Concert: <i>Felicia Atkinson</i>	PG 13
SUN, MAY 17, 1PM	Walkthrough: <i>Palomar (Part 1)</i>	PG 10
SUN, MAY 17, 3-5PM	Workshop: <i>Palomar</i>	PG 10
SAT, JUN 13, 4PM	Opening reception: <i>Palomar (Part 2)</i> and performance by Whitney Johnson, Lia Kohl, and Macie Stewart	PG 10
THU, JUN 18, 6:30PM	Walkthrough: <i>Palomar (Part 2)</i>	PG 7
SUN, JUN 21, 3PM & 10PM	Performance Lecture: <i>Day & Night</i> with Sarah and Joseph Belknap	PG 10

JAN 10–APR 12, 2026

LEAH KE YI ZHENG CHANGE, I CHING (64 PAINTINGS)

PART 1: MAY 2–JUN 7, 2026

PART 2: JUN 10–JUL 12, 2026

PALOMAR

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

at the University of Chicago
5811 South Ellis Avenue
Cobb Hall, 4th Floor
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Contemporary art
exhibitions, events,
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