



Your Ultimate Guide to Expo Chicago

The 2015 version is the biggest yet.

BY JASON FOUMBERG



Daniel Buren. From three windows, 5 colors for 252 places, work in situ, 2006. 18 aluminum frames and transparent vinyl (blue, yellow of now, orange, pink, red, green) on Plexiglas panels; hanging system. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND LISSON GALLERY, LONDON, © DB-ADAGP.

Expo Chicago, the city's major art fair, kicks off the fall art season this weekend with a flurry of talks, parties, high-profile sales, and more. Whether you're a connoisseur or just simply art-curious, the behemoth fair is nothing short of overwhelming. The event runs Thursday to Sunday at Navy Pier, and there's plenty going on. Consider this list your curated guide.

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Hit the Parties

For \$100, get a first-look at this year's Expo, plus a front row seat to new performance art (think: gold-covered semi-nude men), a rumored free tequila bar, plus a dance party at this year's **Vernissage**. *Thursday, September 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.*

Check out some of Chicago's best galleries during **Art After Hours**, acitywide gallery crawl organized by EXPO. *Friday, September 18 from 6 to 9 p.m.* [Downloadable map available here.](#)

Spot the Art Stars

Theaster Gates signs his new book at Phaidon's booth on Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Painters from the original **Hairy Who** (Gladys Nilsson, Karl Wirsum, Art Green) are interviewed live. *Saturday, September 19 at 4 p.m.*

New York artist **Hunter Reynolds** performs his Survival AIDS Mummification Performance in collaboration with local artists Elijah Burgher and Steve Reinke. *Sunday, September 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.*

Get a Little Weird

See your future with **Dana Major**, who reads your fortune using mineral magic. *Thursday September 17 to Sunday September 18.*

Check out a solar-powered ice-cream truck devised by artist **Spencer Finch**. The food art squirts soft serve in the colors of the sunset.

Play Dominos on a hand-crafted jatoba wood table with corian inlay, modeled after the public game tables in Puerto Rico, made by **Dan Sullivan** and **Edra Soto**.

Shop Affordably

Try the Columbia College Chicago's artisan **boutique** featuring art, fashion, literature, prints, and gifts made by top students.

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Embrace your inner lithead at a **miniature bookstore** featuring small-publisher artist books, sketchbooks, zines, and printed oddities from eight art-book sellers.

Spruce up your desktop with **Threewalls's** limited edition sculptures that perch happily on desks and bookshelves.

The Details

Expo Chicago runs from September 17 to 20 at Navy Pier. \$15 to 30. expochicago.com.

Changes to This Story

SEPT. 15, 2015: An earlier version of this story stated that Theaster Gates would be signing books at Kavi Gupta Gallery's booth. He will actually be at Phaidon's booth.