

Press Release: "Facades" – Opening at The Art Center Highland Park – August 8, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Images:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1hkliEOgJVPaK8BNPiyBj3W3llwiEJUTm>

Websites: www.olivagallery.com | www.theartcenterhp.org

Facades – A Group Exhibition Featuring Nikki Renee Anderson, Aaron Becker, and Molly Schiff

Opening Reception: Friday, August 8, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Exhibition Dates: August 8 – September 27, 2025



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The Art Center
Highland Park**

Featuring Nikki Renee Anderson,
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Highland Park, IL – The Art Center Highland Park, in partnership with Oliva Gallery, proudly announces *Facades*, a powerful new exhibition opening August 8, 2025, that foregrounds three influential voices in contemporary Midwestern art: Nikki Renee Anderson, Aaron Becker, and the late Molly Schiff. Through sculpture, color, and dynamic form, *Facades* confronts themes of

identity, visibility, and public space, inviting audiences to consider how we construct, obscure, and reveal ourselves in a constantly shifting social landscape.

These three Chicago-based artists—each rooted in a distinct material language—deliver an experience that is visually compelling and emotionally resonant, shaped by Midwest sensibilities and a commitment to community dialogue.

Nikki Renee Anderson, known for her ceramic sculptures and immersive installations, brings a tactile intimacy to the exhibition. Her works challenge static notions of femininity and identity, drawing on personal history to create forms that are at once soft and assertive, playful and deeply psychological. Anderson's practice reflects a career of national and international acclaim, with exhibitions at the Chicago Cultural Center, Hyde Park Art Center, and the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy. A professor and leader in ceramic education, Anderson's work reclaims the domestic and decorative as spaces of feminist resistance and self-exploration.

Aaron Becker engages viewers with a sculptural language that distorts familiarity. Trained in ceramics, Becker constructs imagined environments through abstract form and geometric composition, asking us to examine the energies that shape our perception of place. His work, which often pairs the functional with the conceptual, explores the thresholds between domesticity and disorientation. His installations provoke questions about presence, interiority, and what it means to occupy space.

Molly Schiff (1927–2018), a visionary Chicago modernist, rounds out the exhibition with vividly colored paintings that channel emotional immediacy through abstraction. A lifelong creative force who began painting after a career in the garment industry, Schiff earned multiple degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and exhibited widely across Illinois. Her works exemplify a blend of expressive form, bold palette, and open invitation to interpretive intimacy. She remains a cherished figure in Chicago's art history and her legacy continues to influence new generations.

Together, Anderson, Becker, and Schiff present a multi-generational conversation on form, identity, and the surface tensions that define civic life. *Facades* is more than an exhibition, it is a reflection on visibility, vulnerability, and the connective power of art in public discourse.

Exhibition Details:

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Location:

The Art Center Highland Park
1957 Sheridan Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035

For media inquiries, interviews, or images, please contact:
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About The Art Center Highland Park

The Art Center Highland Park (TAC) is a nonprofit visual arts organization dedicated to presenting innovative exhibitions, arts education, and community engagement. Committed to cultivating a deeper appreciation of the arts, TAC fosters inclusive access and creative dialogue across generations and communities.

About Oliva Gallery

Oliva Gallery showcases exceptional works by established artists from the Midwest, focusing on critical perspectives and interdisciplinary practices. The gallery supports artistic expression through exhibitions, collaborations, and partnerships that amplify regional voices in contemporary art.