

## The Block Collects

Every year The Block brings new works of art into the collection to support Northwestern University's teaching and learning mission. Each work becomes part of an expanding resource available to students, faculty, and our wider community through classes, research visits, and exhibitions like this.

Acquired by The Block over the past five years, these works expand on the perspectives represented in the collection and build on its preexisting strengths. In *Appendix 137\_120* and *Appendix 137\_048*, Walid Raad inserts patterns from abstract paintings by Lebanese artists Yvette Achkar and Huguette Caland within spaces cut out from a representational illustration; other works by Achkar and Caland are included in *Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s–1980s*, on view in the adjacent gallery. Works by Chicago artist Barbara Rossi and the Argentinian

Edgardo Giménez offer additional examples of mid-20th-century abstraction. These prints share the space with a selection of photographic works, including three by Japanese-American artist and biochemist Michael Koerner. Koerner's photographs were selected for acquisition by Northwestern undergraduate students in the Block Museum Student Associates program as part of an ongoing commitment by The Block to student-led acquisitions.

1

Walid Raad (Lebanese and American, born 1967)

*Appendix 137\_120 and Appendix 137\_048,*

from the series *Appendix 137*

2018

Archival inkjet prints mounted on Sintra

Norton S. Walbridge Fund purchase, 2021.1.2

2

Barbara Rossi (American, 1940–2022)

*Eye Deal*

1973

Lithograph on marbled paper laid down on ivory wove paper

Gift of Kohler Foundation, Inc., 2022.9.1

3

Edgardo Giménez (Argentine, born 1942)

LEFT

*Arte 67*

1967

Offset lithograph on paper

Gift of the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), 2020.10.13

FAR UPPER LEFT

*Love (Butterfly)*

1970

Color silkscreen on paper

Gift of the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art  
(ISLAA), 2020.10.16

FAR LOWER LEFT

Untitled (Fuera de caja proof)

1965

Offset lithograph on paper

Gift of the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art  
(ISLAA), 2020.10.15

4

Berenice Abbott (American, 1898–1991)

*The Science Pictures: Soap Bubbles*

1959/60, printed 1982

Gelatin silver print

Donated by Husch Blackwell, LLP, 2019.8.8

*The Science Pictures: Magnetic Field*

1959/60, printed 1982

Gelatin silver print

Donated by Husch Blackwell, LLP, 2019.8.4

**5**

Michael Koerner (Japanese-American, born 1963)

*Blue DNA diptych #1205L - #1201R*, from the series

*Blue DNA*

2021

Chemigram on wet plate collodion positive (tintype)

2021–2022 Block Museum Student Associates

acquisition, Block Student Impact Fund purchase,

2022.2.3

Michael Koerner (Japanese-American, born 1963)

*The Beast Diagnosis #8942*, from the series *The Beast*

*Diagnosis*

2019

Chemigram on wet plate collodion positive (tintype)

2021–2022 Block Museum Student Associates  
acquisition, Block Student Impact Fund purchase,  
2022.2.1

Michael Koerner (Japanese-American, born 1963)

*Worlds #0318*, from the series *Worlds*

2020

Chemigram on wet plate collodion positive (tintype)

2021–2022 Block Museum Student Associates

acquisition, Block Student Impact Fund purchase,

2022.2.2

These three works are from a project titled *My DNA* by artist and biochemist Michael Koerner and were selected to join The Block's collection by the 2021–22 Block Museum Student Associates. Koerner has said that it is the only project he will continue working on until he dies. To make these images, Koerner applied chemicals to metal plates prepared with other chemical solutions to cause reactions that create colors and

shapes. This unpredictable process parallels Koerner's lack of control over his own genetics, permanently altered by his mother's exposure to gamma radiation during the 1945 bombing of Nagasaki, Japan.

*Blue DNA diptych* #1205L - #1201R consists of lines of circles that look like a winding double-helix of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the building block of genetic information. *The Beast Diagnosis* #8942 features white blots within a chaotic array of branching chemical growths reminiscent of a tumor. *Worlds* #0318 contains irregular silver-white geometric shapes clustered around a large disc suggestive of a planet or cell. These works consider the lasting effects of nuclear war both within an individual's body and across multiple generations.

6

Edward Steichen (American, born Luxembourg, 1879–1973)

*Harmonica Riddle, 1921*

1921, printed ca. 1950

Gelatin silver print

Gift of Richard and Jackie Hollander in memory of Ellyn Lee Hollander, 2016.15.19

7

Brett Weston (American, 1911–1993)

Untitled [Ice formation, California]

1969

Gelatin silver print

Gift from the Christian Keese Collection, 2018.13.14