

Behrens, Web. "Beyond Expo: Here Are 6 Neighborhood Art Shows To Check Out In April," *Block Club Chicago*, 3 April 2026.

Block Club Chicago

Beyond Expo: Here Are 6 Neighborhood Art Shows To Check Out In April

Coinciding with the huge annual Expo Chicago, galleries and art museums across the city are unveiling a wide range of shows in April.



By Web Behrens 24 hours ago



CHICAGO — Chicago displays signs of spring in a few ways: daylight stretches toward 8 p.m., daffodils start to bloom and Navy Pier becomes the United Nations of contemporary art.

The international art world [converges on the pier annually](#) for Expo Chicago — this year from April 9-12.

But that's not the totality of the spring action in Chicago's art world: A number of smaller museums and local galleries take advantage of the season to open new exhibitions. Here's a look at some alternative shows happening around the city this month outside of the giant Expo.

['Brendan Fernandes: In the Round'](#)

Driehaus Museum, 50 E. Erie St., Gold Coast

April 9 to Nov. 14

A Gilded Age home-turned-museum in the Gold Coast, the Driehaus welcomes its first artist-in-residence with Brendan Fernandes, an associate professor at Northwestern University known for mixing visual arts and movement. Two years ago, his ["New Monuments: Chicago" project](#) transformed Grant Park's equestrian statue of Civil War general John Logan into an installation featuring additional sculptural elements and dance. With this [new exhibition](#), Fernandes brings his dance, sound and sculptural installation to the museum's auditorium. The debut performance happens the night of April 10, when an ensemble of local dancers will join Fernandes for an improvisational evening that includes a soundscape by Chicago-based experimental musician Alex Inglizian. More details [here](#).