

A LOVE SUPREME

MCCORMICK HOUSE REIMAGINED

Music is an expression of the human heart, of the human being itself. It does express just what is happening...it expresses the whole of a human experience at the particular time it is being expressed.

- John Coltrane, 1966

A gong is struck followed by lilting piano chords, shimmering cymbals, rhythmic bass, and then the drums—sounds made whole by mesmerizing “sheets of sound” from John Coltrane’s saxophone. A truly original aural experience unfolds as we are drawn into the musician’s 1965 seminal album *A Love Supreme*.

Coltrane’s “free jazz” masterpiece was recorded in a single session and divided into four movements reverently titled “Acknowledgement”, “Resolution”, “Pursuance”, and “Psalm”. The session literally was an act of pure improvisation. At the same time, it also was an act of healing and redemption that reflected a deep spiritual awakening and belief in God’s omnipotence – what Coltrane described as “truly a love supreme.” The recording goes beyond merely expressing the musician’s religious sensibilities and speaks more fully to his entire lived experience. How does one describe such a moment? This inevitably will differ from person to person. In jazz and in the larger world of visual art the term “flow state” describes that level of consciousness where the ability to make is the result of unbridled creativity, exploration, investigation, and improvisation. Creating becomes a type of meditative state, and life’s journey an abundant well from which to draw motivation. For the purpose of this exhibition, which is inspired by *A Love Supreme*, we are invoking a new term to describe the vast array of experiences that inspire acts of human artistic expression: The Coltrane Moment.

Coltrane’s legendary record was the sum of many parts. Likewise, within this small Modernist space— Mies van der Rohe’s McCormick House—we imagine not only a gallery but a home, a moment, a world, and a set of beliefs that together highlight the immense power of Black and Brown creativity. We invite you into a reimagining of this space through the consideration of 35 BIPOC artists and the voicing of their own Coltrane Moments. Much in the way that *A Love Supreme* was a musical evocation of Coltrane’s spirituality, memories, hardships, and triumphs, each of these talented makers had their own epiphanies, rooted in music, spirituality, the body, and movement. Reflect on each artist and consider their words, their musical inspirations, and of course their work. Perhaps they even relate to your own Coltrane Moments.

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A Love Supreme: McCormick House Reimagined is co-curated by Norman Teague and Rose Camara. This exhibition is presented in partnership with the Chipstone Foundation.



C H I P S T O N E

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