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Contact:  
Erika Monroe-Kane  
Director of Communications  
608.257.0158 x 237  
erika@mmoca.org

## NEW MMoCA EXHIBITION OPENS SOON

### RAY YOSHIDA: THE SPACES IN BETWEEN

June 29, 2019–April 12, 2020

MADISON, WI—On view June 29, 2019 through April 12, 2020, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art will present *Ray Yoshida: The Spaces in Between*, a selection of works by Yoshida from the museum’s permanent collection. Encompassing paintings, collages, and drawings, this exhibition provides a comprehensive look at the talented Chicago-based artist known for his experimental and innovative works of art.

*I’m concerned about the co-existence of disparate forms, the spaces in between: closeness, distances, isolation, attachment, detachment.” - Ray Yoshida*

Whether cutting out all the shirt sleeves from a comic book and arranging them into a collage or reknitting the individual components of a flower (stem, petal, leaves) into an elaborate watercolor grid, Yoshida’s work demonstrates the power and optical allure of a collection. This collagist sensibility also extended to his carefully curated home, where his extensive collection of folk art, tin toys, whirligigs, and masks were impressive in number and kind. Exploring the interconnectivity of a collection was central to Yoshida’s practice. Shapes that were otherwise isolated and inanimate developed a compelling aura when rearranged and grouped within one of his compositions. Throughout his work, abstract forms are elusive, yet recognizable. Yoshida aspired to create art that evoked questions rather than provided answers, urging the viewer to actively participate in deciphering his images. Is that a shoulder? A mountain? Maybe a head?

Yoshida was also a much-admired professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he was revered for his unique approach to teaching art. In line with his own fastidious gaze, he would ask his students to *really* look at an object and ask themselves, “how many ways can this object be represented?” He encouraged his students to look beyond the often European-centric art on the walls of museums and

draw inspiration from storefront window displays, flea markets, and self-taught artists in order to broaden their visual vocabulary. His former students, which include several of the Chicago Imagists, are among the most accomplished artists of our generation.

Exhibitions in the Henry Street Gallery are generously funded through an endowment established by the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation.

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Housed in a soaring, Cesar Pelli-designed building, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art provides free exhibitions and education programs that engage people in modern and contemporary art. The museum's four galleries offer changing exhibitions that feature established and emerging artists. The Rooftop Sculpture Garden provides an urban oasis with an incredible view. The museum is open: Tuesday through Thursday, noon–5 pm; Friday, noon–8 pm; Saturday, 10 am–8 pm; Sunday, noon–5 pm; and is closed on Mondays.

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