With great pleasure and excitement we invite you to join us at the Welcome Reception. We will gather at the Museum of Contemporary Art where you can greet colleagues, friends and guests while enjoying the most delicious, locally-sourced cuisine and refreshments. During the event we will have the opportunity to view the exhibition of works by Los Angeles-based artist Christina Quarles. Her ambiguous and evocative scenes feature figures whose limbs, torsos and faces collide with familiar domestic objects made strange through her experimental colors and painterly gestures.

Founded in 1967 as a Kunsthalle, or noncollecting art gallery, the MCA is now one of the world’s largest museums dedicated to art. Since its inception, it has been their mission to exhibit new and experimental work in all media, paired with ambitious education programs. In 1974, the MCA expanded its mission to include collecting and preserving contemporary art for future generations with the inauguration of a permanent collection that has grown to include more than 2,000 works. The museum moved to its current location in 1996, giving its collection, exhibitions and programming room to evolve to meet the needs of 21st-century art and audiences. The MCA champions the provocative side of contemporary art and culture. Visit their atrium, terrace and sculpture garden with striking views of Lake Michigan.

Start your day with the expansive views of Chicago from the Lakeside Room. Service includes coffee or tea and a continental breakfast. It is also the perfect place to meet friends. On Saturday, spouses and guests are welcome to breakfast in the Ballroom Foyer.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
10:30 AM  DEPART FROM RITZ-CARLTON
11:00 AM  IMMERSIVE VAN GOGH EXHIBIT
12:15 PM  LUNCH AT GIORDANO’S, RETURN TO HOTEL AFTER LUNCH

SPOUSES/GUESTS

Walk through the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit Chicago (https://www.vangoghchicago.com/) while hearing a score set to the artist’s work. The projections move, the images shift from dark to light, and the colors explode. The scale, the images and the effect of being inside Van Gogh’s work can be quite emotional. You may feel like you want to run through the sunflowers.

The immersive experience brings Van Gogh’s work so alive, it is often highly instructive in understanding the artist in a way that viewing one painting at a time on the walls of a museum cannot be. Experts say Van Gogh’s popularity arises from the fact that his images of people, landscapes and still lifes are so accessible, and his bold colors simply glow with innovation.

Annabelle Mauger forged the immersion experience by putting in perspective important themes from Van Gogh’s work. She selected artworks and archives exclusively from the last two years of the artist’s life: 1888–1890. The 200 paintings projected in the show are part of prestigious museum collections including Musée d’Orsay in Paris, Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Museum of Modern Art, and Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, etc.

After the exhibition, we will gather for lunch at Giordano’s. Original owners and Italian immigrants, Efren and Joseph Boglio, moved to Chicago to start their own pizza business. The brothers introduced their Mama’s recipe for stuffed pizza. Over the next 35 years, hundreds of critics announced Giordano’s as the city’s “best” stuffed pizza!
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
6:00 – 8:00 PM
COCKTAIL RECEPTION
THE CAFÉ/TORALI BAR AND ROOFTOP AT THE RITZ-CARLTON
10:00 PM – MIDNIGHT
NIGHTCAP
THE CAFÉ/TORALI BAR AND ROOFTOP AT THE RITZ-CARLTON

With so much dining, sports, theater — Chicago has to offer, we wanted to leave free time for everyone to enjoy as they wish. But we still want to see you to connect with friends and colleagues, old and new before you hit the town!

Before you head out for the evening, please meet colleagues and join us in the lovely Café at the Ritz-Carlton for inspired cocktails, beverages and light snacks.

On your return, join us at the bar for local and authentic Italian spirits and innovative cocktails, limoncello, beer, wine, music, conviviality and much more.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1
10:00 AM  DEPART RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
10:45 AM  ARCHITECTURAL RIVER CRUISE
12:15 PM  LUNCH AT SHAW’S CRAB HOUSE
RETURN TO HOTEL AFTER LUNCH

SPOUSES/GUESTS

Watch the spectacular Chicago skyline glide by while listening to an onboard expert detail notable architectural highlights and major events that played a role in shaping the city as we see it today. We will pass through all three branches of the river exploring more than 40 landmark buildings including the Navy Pier, the Wrigley Building, the John Hancock Building, East Bank Club, the old Post Office Building and the Willis Tower (formerly known as the Sears Tower). Get ready to snap some inspiring photos from one prime vantage point after another...

Cast in a 1940’s style, Shaw’s Oyster Bar is casual but lively. A Chicago institution that boasts a selection of seafood with a longstanding commitment to top quality ingredients, Shaw’s works directly with fishermen and farmers sourcing daily catches flown in from coast-to-coast. With an ethos of spotlighting ingredients first, Shaw’s menu features simple preparations executed to perfection to allow quality to take center stage.
Gia Pergolini is a 17-year-old Senior in high school and 2020 Tokyo Paralympics World Record, American Gold Medalist in the S13 100m backstroke. She shattered her own World Record for the fourth time this year. Breaking the World Record and getting the Gold at 1:04.64, Gia began swimming in 2008 at age four and started competing competitively at age five. By 2017 at the age of 13 years old, she won Silver for the S13 100 meter backstroke at the World Paralympic Championship in Mexico City. She again won Silver in the 2019 World Championship in London. Her one goal after London was to go to Tokyo 2020 Paralympics to win Gold. Growing up, she played lacrosse, soccer and gymnastics, but swimming was her passion. When she was diagnosed with Stargardt’s disease, she decided to focus on swimming. She has two older brothers, Matthew and David. She and her parents, Bill and Alice Pergolini formed Through Gia’s Eyes Foundation to help visual impaired children and young adults, by providing them with high tech video magnifiers and assisted devices needed to live an independent life. Gia already has her sights set on Paris Summer Olympics 2024!
Gather with friends and colleagues in the Grand Ballroom for five-star dinner service. Art, architecture and industrial innovation are at the core of Chicago’s story, told beautifully through the experience at The Ritz-Carlton Ballroom. Celebrate the evening with culinary delights inspired by local ingredients and prepared by the finest Ritz-Carlton chefs. Dance to one of the best bands in Chicago, lead by the pitch-perfect Maggie Speaks. Spoken Four, will entertain us all night long with songs we know and love. Spoken Four’s astounding performances include songs from the 50’s through today’s Top 40. You will hear everything from the Jackson 5 to Maroon 5. Delivering high-quality sound and DJ-style medleys; you’ll want to be sure to wear your dancing shoes.
FORMER RETINA SOCIETY MEMBER, HOWARD SCHATZ, WILL DISCUSS HOW A LIFE IN MEDICINE CAN INSPIRE, SHAPE AND INFORM ARTISTIC CREATIVITY.

Howard Schatz has received international acclaim for his work. Over the last 30 years twenty-three major books have been published of his work and he has won virtually every award in photography. His work can be found in hundreds of private collections and has been seen in over 100 museum and gallery exhibitions world-wide.