Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford: Near Eternity

May 30th–Aug 23rd 2026

Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 S Cottage Hill Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Near Eternity is a site-responsive exhibition unfolding across the McCormick House and the surrounding grounds of Wilder Park at the Elmhurst Art Museum. Through a series of sculptures, the artist considers the lifespans and fragilities of designed systems—biological, architectural, capital, and digital—asking how permanence and decay are mediated by natural and technological infrastructures. Together with threads of 3D scanning and sculptural translation of works from the museum's collection, these references draw out parallels between botanical resilience, the myth of architectural immortality, and the digital networks that underwrite contemporary life.

Using sculpture as a tool to examine design and the larger systems in which objects circulate, the artist borrows familiar forms such as the Barcelona Chair designed by Mies van der Rohe and Lillian Reich, the Eames splint designed by Charles and Ray Eames, standing desks, and children's IKEA chairs. Hulsebos-Spofford transforms the sleek objects, pitting the surface with fingerprints that polka dot the form with texture. In their altered states, these icons of modern design become part of a digital–analog matrix, collapsing distinctions between furniture, sculpture, artifact, and interior architecture. Near Eternity ultimately proposes sculpture as a method for re-sensing designed environments, revealing how endurance and obsolescence are co-produced across bodies and buildings.

All of the sculptures are created through a hybrid process combining 3D scanning, digital printing, casting, and hand sculpting to materialize the interplay of organic forms and manufactured objects. Four new sculptures installed within the domestic modernist interior of the McCormick House create a "re-interior" that accentuates the architecture's vulnerabilities—aging materials, entropy, and the persistence of technological obsolescence. Outdoors in Wilder Park (adjacent to the Museum), three companion public sculptures embed themes of reproduction and the information age into forms typically associated with civic permanence (the public monument), extending the exhibition's inquiry into the landscape of public parks.

About the Artist

Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford is an interdisciplinary artist, Director of the School of the Arts, and Associate Professor of Visual Art at Indiana University Northwest. He is also a co-director and co-founder of the collective Floating Museum based in Chicago. His work has been shown at the Art Institute of Chicago, Malmo Konstmuseum, Chicago Cultural Center, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, American Academy of Arts and Letters, Palais de Tokyo Hors les Murs, the DuSable Black History Museum and the Hyde Park Art Center, among other spaces. He has held fellowships from the Sculpture Space, the Illinois Arts Council, the MacDowell Colony, the Vermont Studio Center, the Brown Foundation Program at the Dora Maar House, and the Skowhegan School of Sculpture and Painting. His work has been supported by grants from the Mellon Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Harpo Foundation, the Propeller Fund, the Chauncey and Marion Deering McCormick Foundation, the Field Foundation, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Stephanie Field Harris Charitable Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, an Indiana University New Frontiers Grant, and a Fulbright Fellowship in Sicily, among others. Reviews and coverage of his work have been included in outlets like the New

York Times, Sculpture Magazine, Newcity, Hyperallergic, Artforum, CBS News, NPR, the Chicago Sun Times, USA Today, Dezeen, and the Chicago Tribune. He recently served as an artistic director of the 5th edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

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https://elmhurstartmuseum.org/exhibitions/near%20eternity