

ARCH proudly presents “Celebration? Realife Revisited. 1972-2000”, 1972-2000, the seminal work by Marc Camille Chaimowicz, that marked a decisive shift in early 1970s art from object-based practice toward immersive, lived environments. Emerging in the aftermath of the social upheavals of the late 1960s, the work reflects a broader cultural shift—one that sought to merge art with everyday life and to rethink how meaning is produced collectively rather than imposed. Conceptually, the work was a response to the dominant tendencies of late modernism—particularly its austerity, masculinity and claims to objectivity.

“Celebration? Realife Revisited. 1972-2000”, 1972-2000, was first shown in 1972 at the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, but it was a short time later in March of the same year when Chaimowicz was able to situate himself within the work at the exhibition Three Life Situations at Gallery House in London. During these first showings, the work operated simultaneously as installation, performance, and social space. Chaimowicz constructed a deliberately scattered environment: a constellation of everyday objects, suffused with ethereal disco lighting, silver paint and glitter, as if a remnant of some supposed party from the night before where the music still played. By occupying the space at Gallery House, Chaimowicz collapsed distinctions between exhibition and life: he served tea and interacted with visitors, positioning the artist not as a distant author, but as host, choreographer and participant. Two vitrines in the library at ARCH show documents, notes and ephemera related to these initial two showings of Celebration? Realife.

In 2000, “Celebration? Realife Revisited. 1972-2000”, 1972-2000, was re-staged as an installation without the artist present in situ (or in the case of Ikon, attendants under careful instruction to act as his representatives). The addition of Revisited to the title is a nod to the shift in perspective, and an acknowledgment of the act of looking back at another time.

“Celebration? Realife Revisited. 1972-2000”, 1972-2000, is not just an installation but a situation: a constructed yet open-ended environment in which objects, atmosphere, and human presence interact. Its enduring significance lies in how it plays with relational practices, and the aesthetics of the domestic and the decorative, continuing to resonate and find new meanings with audiences to this day.

Marc Camille Chaimowicz was born in postwar Paris and had major solo exhibitions internationally, including at Le Consortium, Dijon (2024); Wiels, Brussels (2023), MAMC, Saint-Etienne (2022); Kunsthalle Bern (2020); The Jewish Museum, New York (2018); La Triennale di Milano, Milan (2016); The Serpentine Gallery, London (2016); Inverleith House, Edinburgh (2010); Secession, Vienna (2009); and Artist’s Space, New York (2009). His works have been included in group shows at Manifesta 13, Marseille; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis; Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt; Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Raven Row, and the Royal Academy of Arts all in London.

Opening: May 21st, 2026 (6 - 9 pm)

Hours of operation: Tuesday – Saturday (11 AM – 6 PM) or by appointment
Admission is free.

Ground Floor:

Celebration? Realife Revisited. 1972-2000

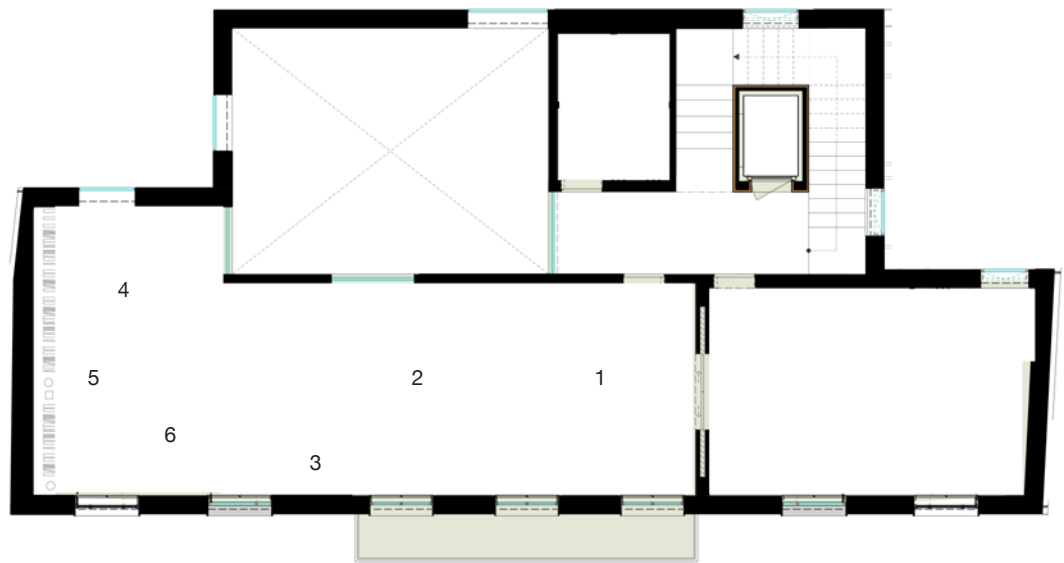
1972-2000

Mixed media

Dimensions variable

Courtesy, Sammlung Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst

Library:



1. Archival material

4. *Plum vase*, 2014

Glazed ceramic

H: 43, D: 22cm

2. Archival material

5. *Tulip vase*, 2014

Glazed ceramic

H: 33, D: 21cm

3. *Learning...* 1989-1990

Oil, charcoal and wood collage on panel and canvas
122 × 109.5cm

Executed in 1989-1990

6. *Rope vase*, 2014

Glazed ceramic

H: 30, D: 23cm