THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM
FOR CULTURE & SOCIETY

Pierre Bismuth:
Love Bless America

Sept. 26, 2026 – Jan. 8, 2027

Exhibition Checklist

Pierre Bismuth
Love Bless America
2026
Single-channel video, color, sound; 2 hr. 51 min.

Taking as its starting point a research project by musicologist Martha Feldman on the relationship between music and love, artist Pierre Bismuth commissioned Sharon Udoh and Joshua Abrams — two leading figures from Chicago's jazz and improvised music scene — to compose a 21st-century spiritual. In turn, they asked Bismuth to provide the lyrics as the foundation for their composition. The project traces the journey into creation, touching on a wide range of themes from the mechanics of creativity to love, music, and the fraught relationship between art and the divine.

Pierre Bismuth
Variations on the Theme of Nation–The Chicago Hymn Version
2026
Single-channel video, color, silent; 1 hr. 1 min.

This digital work maps out the global footprint of issues generated or experienced by the United States around the world. The selection of flags brings together historical or recent international relations, ranging from major strategic or commercial interlocutors, proxy conflicts, to direct armed conflict zones, regimes under heavy sanctions and security crises, as well as major allies hit by sudden economic and trade tensions. The national emblems and the political context are therefore used as material to produce an elaborated series of pictorial combinations that can strangely be appreciated as pure formal compositions. To these geometrical compositions is combined the text of the hymn that the artist conceived as a starting point of his project with Sharon Udoh and Joshua Abrams.