



LEAGUE OF NATIONS
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Chicago Cultural Center

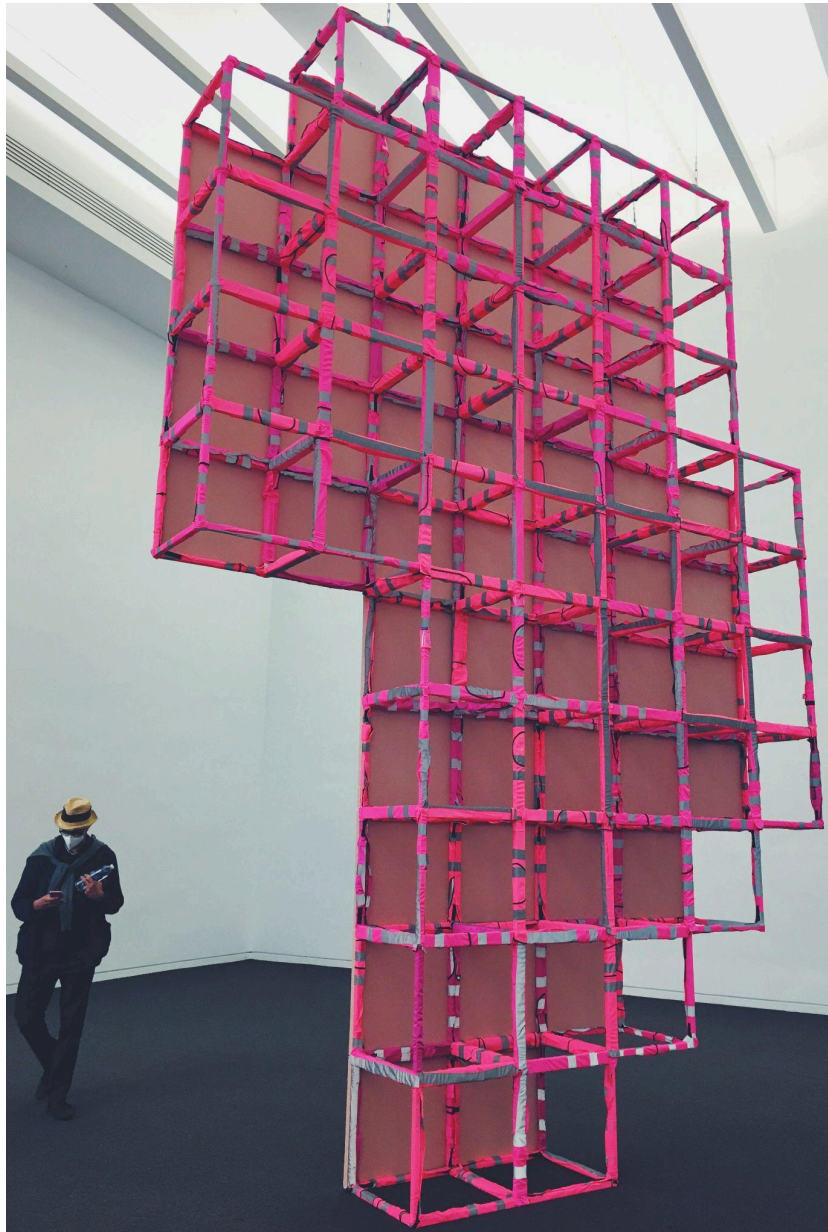
Engineered stability, the foundation of the Chicago Cultural Center has not shifted nor settled in more than one hundred years. In the waning afternoon hours, I shuffle a group of thirteen college freshmen under Tiffany dome, up marble staircase, through unadorned white office-building hallways with trademark fluorescent lighting. Their feet patter on soft carpet as the hall opens upward before them into skylight, monumentality shrouds. A week later, I return with renowned German artist, Christian Wulffen, mapping this semi-transparent layer onto the first. As with any superimposition, the darkest elements prove to be the clearest.

Lateral cartographic movement or perhaps even moving downward through a stack of maps, the coordinates are fleshed out in Boeing insulation foam, neon safety fabric, and the repetition of forms. With objects at their intersections, however, the question of boundary loses its predetermined fulcrum - it spins out, repeating faces captured at less than a handful of frames per second. If, as the exhibition suggests, present-day commonality is, at its core, organized by objects rather than nations, how much objective difference can this cartographic pattern field hold without collapsing into unreliability?¹

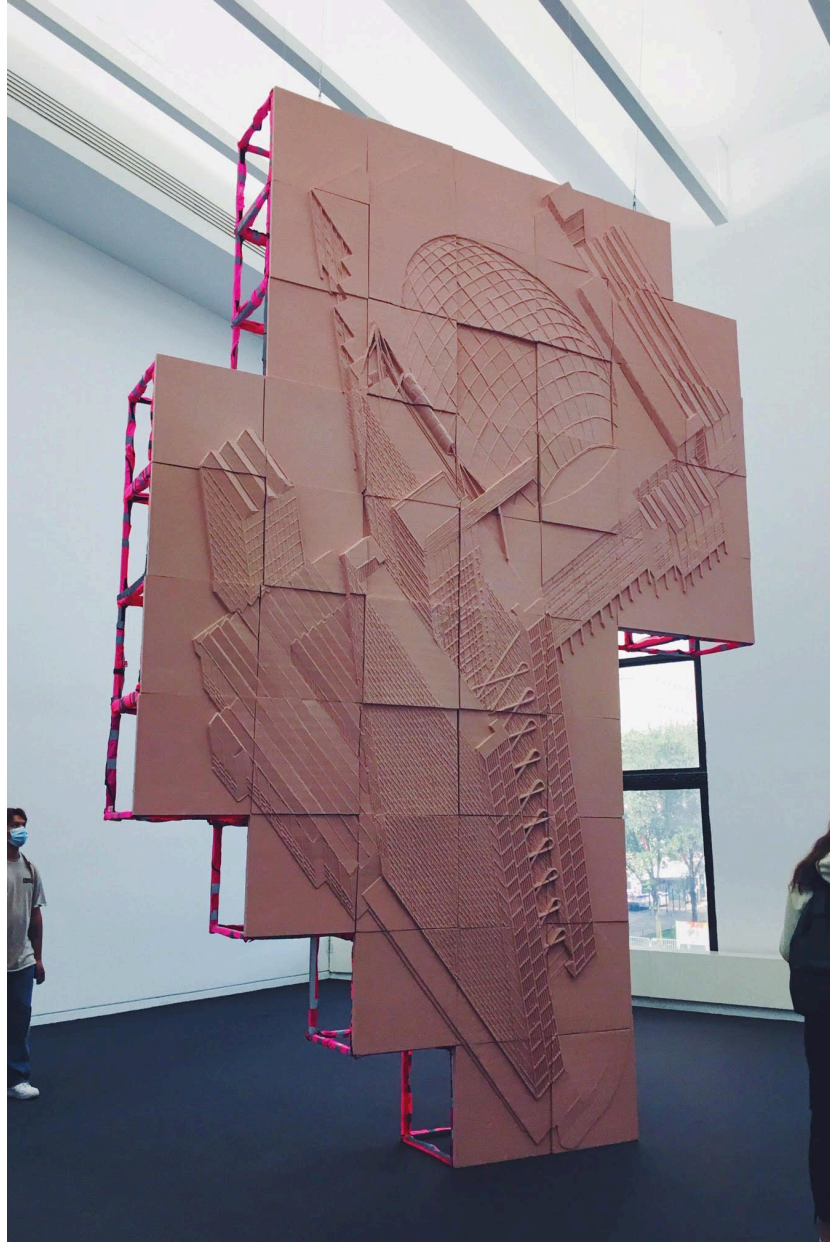
¹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J9QgM9aOEmsH8CzBB68w5MOImTAKVpk4vo8nf0hWi9s/edit?usp=sharing>

Gleaming silver hardware adorns the pallet bases of sculptures, echoing the rings on the ominously grand-scale tarped concealment in the room adjacent. I move my hands to draw a cable between them and connect the dots, so to speak (or rather, to remain silent), grasping for the possibility of structure without pattern, scaling from latch to latch. Students follow the connection with their eyes, testing the logistics, unraveling the subsequent results.

What is the process of making and how does one show evidence of this making (C. Wulffen)?



Christian Wulffen with *League of Nations*, Chicago Cultural Center, September 2021



Students with *League of Nations*, Chicago Cultural Center, September 2021