

MUSEUM PREVIEWS

SEPTEMBER

Michael Rakowitz

In 2007, during one of the darkest periods of the United States occupation of Iraq, Chicago-based artist Michael Rakowitz began work on a monumental project to reconstruct every object looted from the Iraqi National Museum. The work, titled *The invisible enemy should not exist*, features replicas of ancient artifacts from the cradle of civilization rendered in newspaper, cardboard, tape, and other humble materials. Addressing the fraught history of the modern Middle East with wry humor and a generous spirit, the work is typical of Rakowitz's art, which often draws on his Iraqi heritage. This show surveys his career since the 1990s, offering a selection of works on paper, a new large-scale commission, examples from *The invisible enemy*, and a food truck serving traditional Iraqi fare.

*Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago,
Sept. 16, 2017–Mar. 4, 2018.*