

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Thea L. Nichols

[thea@edpaschkeartcenter.org](mailto:thea@edpaschkeartcenter.org)

**Ed Paschke Art Center Unveils *Vaca Victoria***

*Off public view since 1999, this new acquisition joins EPAC's permanent collection*

**Chicago (January 30, 2015)** The Ed Paschke Art Center (EPAC) is pleased to announce the unveiling of Paschke's *Vaca Victoria*.

The sculpture was part of the City of Chicago's "Cows on Parade," which ran from June-October, 1999. It showcased over 300 different fiberglass cows embellished by some of Chicago's top artists, including William Conger, Mr. Imagination, Carlos "Dzine" Rolón, Stanley Tigerman and Karl Wirsum.

"The 'Cows on Parade' initiative was one of the largest and most successful temporary public art projects that Chicago has ever mounted," said Vesna Stelcer, chair of the Ed Paschke Foundation. "Gaining this historic Paschke piece for the Ed Paschke Art Center is a great addition to the Center's collection, as it further reiterates Ed's connection to Chicago and his honest appreciation of its diversity."

Cows were displayed throughout the city, with the majority appearing in Chicago's Downtown, Gold Coast, River North and Museum Campus areas. Paschke's *Vaca Victoria* originally stood at 215 W. Superior in River North, but was only on public view for a few short days. A controversy ensured over some of the symbols he painted on it, including Chicago gang symbols from the Vice Lords, Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples (among others). To Paschke, these symbols represented part of the compelling graphic vocabulary found throughout his beloved Chicago.

Other elements of his composition included a head painted in the style of the Chicago Bulls logo and six stars representing their championship wins. Ed Paschke was an avid sports fan and season ticket holder of the Bulls, and his son Marc Paschke had this to say about the work; "One interpretation would be that the cow represents how all of the people of the city, often with diverse interests or cultures, came together for the Bulls (during their Championship run). Sports brought the city together."

Beginning Monday, February 2, 2015 at the Ed Paschke Art Center (5415 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago IL) *Vaca Victoria* will go on free permanent view to the public for the first time since 1999. The work joins EPAC's permanent collection thanks to a generous gift from Averill and Bernard Leviton.

Ed Paschke was once quoted as having said, “They either love it or hate it, but rarely are they indifferent to it.” *Vaca Victoria* challenges viewers to draw their own conclusions about the combination of symbols and emotions the work conjures. Viewers are invited to come see how Paschke transforms an uttered bovine into a Chicago Bull, camouflaging it with the type of urban graffiti that often spontaneously appears on unguarded public sculptures.

### **About the Ed Paschke Art Center**

The Mission of the Ed Paschke Art Center (EPAC) is to preserve and provide public access to the work of the legendary Ed Paschke; to serve as an educational resource for youth, adults, artists and academics; and to function as an accessible platform for artists to showcase their work.

Located in Chicago’s Jefferson Park neighborhood, EPAC opened June 22, 2014, almost ten years after the artist’s death, on what would have been his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Built in tribute to Chicago’s most famous artist, EPAC provides permanent access to the world’s largest public collection of Paschke’s work. Architect John Ronan renovated EPAC’s building, which houses 2,800 square feet of gallery space and 1,700 square feet of educational space, alongside a re-imagining of Ed Paschke’s 2004 studio. The permanent collection showcases the Ed Paschke Family Foundation’s holdings of the many styles and periods Paschke explored throughout his artistic career, which spanned from 1969 to 2004. The Chicago Artist Gallery is dedicated to exhibiting the work of

The Ed Paschke Art Center is proudly funded by The Rabb Family Foundation. Since its inception in 2013, the foundation has provided more than one million dollars to health, environmental and arts-related initiatives, including institutions such as the Ed Paschke Art Center and the National Veterans Art Museum. The Rabb Family Foundation works to support programs that overcome social and economic barriers as well as recognize citizens who have positively impacted the communities in which they live and work. Additional major supporters of the Ed Paschke Art Center include the 3M Company, Bank of America and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Ed Paschke Art Center is free and open to the public seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information call 312.533.4911 or visit [edpaschke.org](http://edpaschke.org).

###