

**CTPA at BOWIE IS....at the Museum of Contemporary Art**  
**Write-up of visit on October 10, 2014**  
**Text and photos by Gina V Driskell**

On Friday, October 10, 2014, nine CTPA members showed up at the Museum of Contemporary Art to experience the *David Bowie Is* installation that will be at the museum **until January 4, 2015.**

There are more than 400 items on display ranging from lyrics, set designs, make-up design, costumes, photographs and art. The multi-media experience is immersive and enhanced with a headphone system that allows you to experience explanations of events and ideas as well as enjoy the soundtracks of Bowie's various compositions and collaborations.

There were so many outlets of his creative endeavors, including videos from the beginning in 1963 until 2005, clips of films he has appeared in, as well as his on-stage appearance in *The Elephant Man* (which I was able to see when it was at the Blackstone Theatre here in Chicago in August 1980). There are a couple of paintings he did of Iggy Pop during the Berlin period. One can even see Bowie himself giving an explanation of a software program he helped create (Verbasizer). The program creates random phrases based on shuffled words from various sources (magazines, newspapers etc.) to produce lyrics, and the Verbasizer program was indeed used by *Tin Machine*.

There are costumes from all of his colorful personas, and album flats of all the vinyl recordings, smeared lyrics on various media. You can see videos from *Top of the Pops* (BBC) to *Saturday Night Live* and the ones that were in heavy rotation on MTV. Also there is a series of video performances from the last appearance of the Spiders from Mars (Ziggy Stardust) to the celebration performance for the first responders of 9-11, and so many in between.

I had an opportunity to meet Bowie in April 1978 during the *Heroes Tour* that stopped at Arie Crown. As my friends and I were in the lobby before the show, his guitar player Carlos Alomar befriended us and we were invited back to The Whitehall for a party. (No, it wasn't a sit down affair, there was music.) Bowie stayed long enough to meet us and have a beverage. I was able to see him again during the August 1983 *Serious Moonlight* tour at the Rosemont Horizon. The last time I saw him was August 1987 for the *Glass Spider* tour, again at the Rosemont Horizon, this time with Peter Frampton and Carlos Alomar both on guitar. It was interesting to learn during the exhibit that Owen Frampton, who was an art teacher and inspiration of Bowie's, was also Peter Frampton's dad.

The MCA has extended hours during the exhibit; Tues. 10am to 8pm, Wed. 10am to 5pm, Thurs. 10am to 8pm and Fri. 10am to 10pm and Sat and Sun 9am to 6pm. Tickets are \$25 and include admission to the entire museum. You can purchase tickets on-line at [www.mcachicago.org](http://www.mcachicago.org) or calling the Bowie hotline at 312.397.4068

It took the third evening visit until I was able to absorb everything without getting the 15 minute "we are soon closing" warning. I may go back for a fourth visit. Fan...who me?

Submitted by  
Gina V Driskell  
CTPA Co-Secretary

**Choose Chicago had this review for the exhibit from the St. Louis Post Dispatch**

[http://www.stltoday.com/travel/national/david-bowie-is-an-ode-to-a-rock-legend/article\\_cf3fd151-2458-520b-8d6c-8f5f8f4381fe.html](http://www.stltoday.com/travel/national/david-bowie-is-an-ode-to-a-rock-legend/article_cf3fd151-2458-520b-8d6c-8f5f8f4381fe.html)

DAVID  
BOWIE  
IS  
NOW



**See it  
before it  
closes  
JAN 4!**

MAJOR TOM ZIGGY  
STARDUST ALADDIN  
SANE THE THIN WHITE  
DUKE THE MAN WHO  
FELL TO EARTH THE MAN  
WHO SOLD THE WORLD