PRESS COVERAGE

Relative Closeness: Photographs of Family and Friends

June 11 — August 8, 2007

2. Time Out, 7.5.2007
Illinois State Museum
Chicago Gallery

FREE James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., 10 a.m.–5 p.m., free; $10 to $15, 2 p.m. $15. 312-220-7430, free.admission.org. Chicago’s famous, multi-use landmark is home to a variety of exhibits and activities including the Art Institute of Chicago’s collection of African art, Native American artifacts, and a newly expanded Special Exhibitions Gallery.

Museum of Contemporary Art

220 E. Chicago Ave at Mies van der Rohe Way (312-398-7961, mozart.org). FREE 3 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. $10. 312-398-7961, free.admission.org.

MCA offers many events throughout the year, including lectures, films, and performances. Some events have a fee, while others are free. The MCA is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The MCA also offers free admission every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

International Museum of Surgical Science

1555 N Lake Shore Dr at Burton Pl (312-643-6700, mss.org). 10 a.m.–5 p.m. $25. 312-643-6700, mss.org.

This museum is home to the world’s largest collection of medical equipment and surgical instruments. The museum features more than 5,000 items, including operating tables, operating lamps, and various surgical tools. The exhibits are arranged chronologically, so visitors can see how medical technology has evolved over time.

Intuitive: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art

375 N Milwaukee Ave at Ogden and Chicago Aves (312-243-9568, outsiderart.org). Free 11 a.m.–5 p.m. 312-243-9568, outsiderart.org.

This gallery is dedicated to showcasing the work of self-taught artists who have not received formal artistic training. The gallery features a wide range of materials and techniques, including paintings, drawings, and sculptures. All of the works on display are created by artists who have never received any formal training in art.

Newberry Library

60 W Walton St between Dearborn and Washington Aves (312-649-9000, newberry.org). 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 312-649-9000, newberry.org.

The Newberry Library is a research library that is home to a collection of rare books and manuscripts. The library is open to the public and offers a variety of resources for researchers and scholars. The library also offers a number of programs and events throughout the year, including lectures, workshops, and exhibits.

Northeastern Illinois University Fine Arts Center

5700 S University Ave (773-442-4944, u.niu.edu). 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 773-442-4944, u.niu.edu.

The Northeastern Illinois University Fine Arts Center is home to a variety of art exhibitions and events throughout the year. The center features a variety of galleries and exhibition spaces, as well as a number of performance venues.

Racine Art Museum

441 Main St, Racine, WI 53403, 262-638-2030, racineart.org. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 262-638-2030, racineart.org.

The Racine Art Museum is a museum of contemporary art that features a wide range of works by artists from around the world. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Smart Museum of Art

The University of Chicago, 5555 S University Ave (773-702-0000, smartmuseum.uchicago.edu). 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 773-702-0000, smartmuseum.uchicago.edu.

The Smart Museum of Art is a museum of contemporary art that features a wide range of works by artists from around the world. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
"Relative Closeness"

Museum of Contemporary Photography, through Aug 8 (see Museums & Institutions).

Relationships force us to feel and ask us to confront ourselves. In a show with a high cheese potential, this poignant collection confronts touchy issues without trite sentimentality.

For more than ten years, self-taught artist Harry Callahan photographed his wife and, eventually, abstracted her nude form. In Eleanor (1947), he whitewashes her body and zooms in on her back, buttocks and thighs to create what looks almost like a black twig against a white background.

On the homosexual end of the spectrum, Croatian artist Hrvoje Slovec subtly approaches the politics of same-sex relationships through images inspired by static 19th-century wedding photographs of unsmiling couples in their best clothes. In Dow Price and Willie T. Pretorius (2007), two older gay men sit beside one another in black suits. Though one holds a bouquet, both stare straight ahead with their hands clasped in their laps. Slovec’s cautious yet powerful message seeps into viewers’ minds: Queer people exist in a society that discourages them from openly expressing emotion, let alone marrying.

In Jen Davis’s work, the artist turns the camera on her obese body. In Untitled no. 15, morning light illuminates her face and torso while blue light streams in through another window. Wearing loose black clothing, she confronts herself in front of the camera without pity or self-deprecation.

These honest, emotional images should connect with anyone who drops in on MoCP’s show.—Alicia Eler
Art & Design

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