

PRESS COVERAGE



# Photodimensional

February 13 — April 19, 2009

1. Time Out 2.12.2009
2. Time Out 3.5.2009



recently revealed to be Michelangelo's figure studies for the Sistine Chapel's *Last Judgment* are among these 70 drawings made between 1520 and 1620. Through Apr 5.

**\*"Polaroids: Mapplethorpe."**

What's not to love about instant photos of Patti Smith? Taken between 1970 and 1975, the 100 self-portraits, figure studies and still lifes in this exhibition—originally curated by the Whitney Museum—offer new insights into Robert Mapplethorpe's early career. Through Apr 5.

**Milwaukee Art Museum**

700 N Art Museum Dr, Milwaukee, WI (414-224-3200, mam.org). Tue–Sun 10am–5pm; Thu 10am–8pm. \$12, seniors and students \$10, kids under 12 free.

**\*"Catesby, Audubon and the Discovery of a New World: Prints of the Flora and Fauna of America."** Cutting-edge printmaking technology helped 18th- and 19th-century naturalists Mark Catesby, Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon and his son, John Woodhouse Audubon, create comprehensive illustrated records of North American plants and animals. This survey includes approximately 50 of their etchings, lithographs and other works. Through Mar 22.

**\*"Jan Lievens: A Dutch Master Reconsidered."** Eat it, Rembrandt! Lievens, a 17th-century art star who's been overshadowed by his more famous countryman ever since, finally gets his due with this exhibition of 110-plus paintings, drawings and prints. Through Apr 26.

**Museum of Contemporary Art**

220 E Chicago Ave at Mies van der Rohe Way (312-280-2660, mcachicago.org). El: Red to Chicago. Bus: 3, 10, 26, 66 (24hrs), 125, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151 (24hrs). Tue 10am–8pm; Wed–Sun 10am–5pm. \$12, students and seniors \$7, under 12 free. Tuesdays free.

**\*"Joseph Grigely: St. Cecilia."** Chicago-based Grigely's video installations and works on paper bridge the gap between looking and listening. In a survey that's both playful and poignant, the artist borrows a choir, newspaper photographs and his own memories of the Gilligan's Island theme song to convey how he and other deaf people can enjoy music and communication without sound—encouraging all viewers to reevaluate the experience of hearing. Through Feb 22.—Candice Weber

**"UBS 12 x 12: New Artists/New Work: Curtis Mann."** Mann bleaches and manipulates found photographs from war-ravaged countries to create works that reflect on violence and conflict. Through Mar 1.

**"USA Today."** Bad hair wasn't the 1980s' only scourge: War, racism and other eerily contemporary issues inspired Louise Lawler, Adrian Piper, Dan Peterman and other artists to make these diverse works from the MCA's collection. Through Mar 15.

**Museum of Contemporary Photography**

**FREE** Columbia College, 600 S Michigan Ave at Harrison St (312-663-5554, mcp.org). El: Red to Harrison. Bus: 1, 3, 3X, 4 (24hrs), 4X, 6, 7, 10, 14, 26, 28, 126, 145, 146, 147. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Thu 10am–8pm, Sun noon–5pm.

**\*"PhotoDimensional."** Vik Muniz, Lorna Simpson and 11 other contemporary artists working in sculpture, photography and video challenge our perception as they shift between two and three dimensions. Opens Thu 12, 5–7pm. Through Apr 19.

**National Museum of Mexican Art**

**FREE** 1852 W 19th St between Wolcott Ave and Wood St (312-738-1503, nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org). El: Pink

to 18th. Bus: 9 Ashland (24hrs), 50 Damen. Tue–Sun 10am–5pm.

**"Chicago Figurative."** Twelve local Chicano artists made these prints, from the museum's collection. Through Aug 30.

**"Miradas: Mexican Art from the Bank of America Collection."** This 80-year survey of paintings, prints and photographs features Mexican artists such as Diego Rivera and Gabriel Orozco, as well as Americans who worked South of the Border, including Paul Strand and Harry Callahan. Through Aug 30.

**O'Connor Art Gallery**

**FREE** Dominican University, 7900 W Division St, River Forest (708-524-6597, dom.edu). El: Green to Harlem. Mon–Sat 10am–6pm.

**\*"Untitled (Field Work)." Jason Lazarus's Self-portrait as an artist burning down the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL), Carrie Schneider's photos of artists sleeping in their studios, and works by The Franks, Carey Lin, Amanda Repo Taiwo Thomson and others ask what it means to be an artist. Through Feb 28.**

**Renaissance Society**

**FREE** 5811 S Ellis Ave between 58th and 59th Sts (773-702-8670, renaissance.society.org). Bus: X6 Jackson Park Exp, 28 Stony Island. Metra: Elec Main to 59th St. Tue–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat, Sun noon–5pm.

**"Jim Lutes."** The 30 paintings in Lutes's midcareer retrospective suggest the Chicago artist has actually grown instead of rehashing old material. Although his amorphous figures and abstract swirls haven't changed much over the past few decades, his concerns have: Lutes recovered from creative dead-ends to produce creepy photorealistic scenes and pieces that straddle representation and abstraction. Through Sun 15.—Jason Mojica

**Smart Museum of Art**

**FREE** University of Chicago, 5550 S Greenwood Ave at 55th St (773-702-0200, smartmuseum.uchicago.edu). Bus: 4 Cottage Grove (24hrs), 55 Garfield (24hrs). Tue–Fri 10am–4pm; Thu 10am–8pm; Sat, Sun 11am–5pm.

**"The 'Writing' of Modern Life: The Etching Revival in France, Britain and the U.S., 1850–1940."** Works by Whistler and other American and European artists reveal the connections between writing and etching during the latter's resurgence as an art form. Through Apr 19.

**\*"Aaron Siskind: The Thing Itself."** Siskind's (1903–91) own writings offer insight into his signature photographs of abstracted natural forms and architectural features. Through May 10.

**Spertus Museum**

610 S Michigan Ave at Harrison St (312-322-1700, spertus.edu). El: Red to Harrison. Bus: 1, 3, 4 (24hrs), 145. Wed–Sun 10am–5pm; Thu 10am–6pm. \$7, seniors and students \$5, kids under 5 free. Wed 10am–noon and Thu 2–6pm free.

**"A Force for Change: African-American Art and the Julius Rosenwald Fund."** The Chicago-based Rosenwald Fund awarded stipends to hundreds of black artists, writers and scholars between 1928–48. More than 60 works by Jacob Lawrence, Gordon Parks and 20 other Rosenwald fellows, as well as archival materials, reflect the fund's legacy. Through Aug 16.

**Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art**

2320 W Chicago Ave between Oakley and Western Aves (773-227-5522, uima-

chicago.org). Bus: 49 Western (24hrs), 66 Chicago (24hrs). Wed–Sun noon–4pm. \$5 suggested donation.

**"Welna and Friends."** Paintings, sculptures and prints by Chicago artist Joseph Welna (d. 2007) hang alongside work by colleagues such as Richard Hunt, Richard Schmid and other artists who aren't named Richard. Through Mar 22.

**Woodson Regional Library**

**FREE** 9525 S Halsted St between 95th and 96th Sts (312-745-2080, chipublib.org). El: Red to 95th. Bus: 8AS, 95W, 108, 112. Mon–Thu 9am–9pm; Fri, Sat 9am–5pm; Sun 1–5pm.

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alongside original correspondence, photographs and memorabilia from the library's Harsh Research Collection. Through Dec 31.

**Galleries**

**Michigan Ave**

**Beacon Street Gallery**

Fine Arts Building, 410 S Michigan Ave, suite 732, between Harrison and Congress Sts (773-525-7579, beaconst.org). El: Red to Harrison; Orange, Brown, Pink, Purple

(rush hrs) to Library. Bus: 3, X3, 4 (24hrs), X4, 6, 7, 10, 14, 26, 28, 126, 144, 145, 146, 147. Fri 11am–4pm.

**"Young Native American Artists of Chicago."** Debra Yepa Pappan curated this group show, which also includes work by the Indigenous Arts Alliance of Chicago (IAAC). Opens Fri 13, 5–8pm. Through Apr 18.

**Finestra Art Space**

Fine Arts Building, 410 S Michigan Ave between Van Buren St and Congress Pkwy (847-977-0526, finestraartspace.com). El: Red to Harrison; Orange, Brown, Pink, Purple (rush hrs) to Library. Bus: 3 King Drive, 147 Outer Drive Exp. Fri, Sat 2–6pm.

**"HOMEGALLERYHOME."** The gallery's 2009 exhibition series "Integration: Form + Context + Content" begins with a collaborative installation by Rose DiSalvo, Jen Lopez, Laura Shaeffer and Rachel Tredon. Reception Fri 13, 5–9pm. Through Feb 27.

**North Side**

**GOLDEN**

816 W Newport Ave, no. 1, between Sheffield Ave and Halsted St (golden-gallery.org). El: Red to Addison. Bus: 8, 77 (24hrs), 152. Fri–Sun 1–6pm.


**"Big Mess."** Recent SAIC grads Sonja Drummond and Andrew Holmquist share a self-referential approach to painting. Opens Fri 13, 7–10pm. Through Mar 22.

**Pilsen**

**Extension Gallery**

1835 S Halsted St between 18th and 19th Sts (773-742-0983, extensiongallery.com). Bus: 8 Halsted. Thu–Sat noon–5pm.

**"Jimenez Lai: Point Clouds."** Lai cleverly fuses comics and architectural drawings. Through Mar 13.



**MoCP**  
Museum of Contemporary Photography

**PhotoDimensional**  
February 13 - April 19, 2009

John Coplans	David Ireland	Susana Reisman
Katalin Deér	Heather Mekkelson	Lorna Simpson
Leslie Hewitt	Laurent Millet	Florian Slotawa
Bettina Hoffmann	Melinda McDaniel	
Pello Irazu	Vik Muniz	

800 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
312 663 5554  
[mcp.colum.edu](http://mcp.colum.edu) / [mcp.org](http://mcp.org)



## Reviews

### "Becoming Edvard Munch"

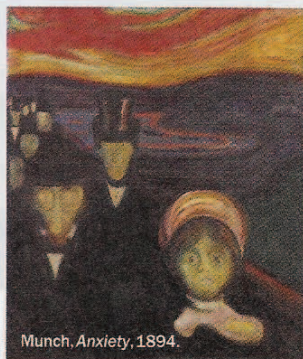
★★★★★

**Art Institute of Chicago**, through Apr 26 (see Museums & Institutions).

Why would the Art Institute, of all places, mount a huge retrospective of Edvard Munch, the Norwegian artist (1863–1944) whose *Scream* launched a thousand inflatable tchotchkes? We can answer the question in one word: prints. They're the most fascinating pieces in this show, and many come from the Art Institute's own collection. (The museum borrowed most of the other paintings and works on paper from Norway; there are about 150 in all.)

Munch's interest in sex and loneliness, his use of flat, vivid areas of color, the puzzle-like way he fits his woodcuts together and his incorporation of the wooden blocks' grain into some of his images make his prints seem innovative for today—not just the turn of the 20th century.

The ways in which disturbing works like *The Scream* (on view as a lithograph) have warped our perceptions of Munch inspired the show's subtitle, "Influence, Anxiety, and Myth." Curator Jay Clarke demonstrates that the artist's supposed "neurasthenia" was to some extent a marketing ploy: He studies in Paris and makes serviceable



Munch, *Anxiety*, 1894.

Impressionist paintings until he taps into darker themes, reinventing the cheerful urban flaneurs he borrowed from Caillebotte as the staring, green-faced procession in *Anxiety* (pictured).

We admit that *Madonna*—a mesmerizing lithograph of a femme fatale encircled by swimming sperm and accompanied by a pissed-off fetus—is bizarre. But the works by Munch's French, German and Scandinavian contemporaries whom Clarke includes in the show prove the artist and his peers addressed the same theme: fear that rapid social change leads to decadence and alienation. Munch just did it better. —*LW*

### "PhotoDimensional"

★★★★★

**Museum of Contemporary Photography**, through Apr 19 (see Museums & Institutions).

The MoCP has spent the past several years investigating photography in the context of other media, i.e. performance art, painting and video. Now it's sculpture's turn.

Most of "PhotoDimensional"'s artists make photos about sculpture—often with curious twists on one of photography's traditional roles, the documentation of sculpture. Others literally make sculptures out of photos. Katalin Deér's *Tabletop* (2008), a photo of a sculptural object, which the artist has cemented onto a concrete table, assumes iconic status in bringing both of the show's threads together. (Some of these pieces would be inaccessible without the wall text, which is clear and helpful but not pedantic or juvenile.)

Curator Karen Irvine's particular interest in the limits of spatial representation yields two of the cleverest works on display. Taking disaster photos from the news as her source material, Chicago artist Heather Mekkelson re-creates the images' debris in the gallery. Her



Hoffman, *La Ronde*, 2004.

sculptures confront visitors with the gravity of those situations in ways the flat images can't. Bettina Hoffmann freezes people in domestic scenes and twirls a video camera around them—capturing angles in her video *La Ronde* (pictured) that elude the monovision of still photographs.

Pello Irazu retouches his photos of chairs and boxes so that viewers can't reconcile the space these objects seem to occupy with reality. True, Irazu engages a theme that's been around since the early 20th century, but his well-executed work has plenty of aesthetic appeal. While the show doesn't break any new art-historical ground, it doesn't make any grand claims, either: It's simply a comprehensive, carefully assembled look at its subject. —*Jonathan Kinkley*

## Listings

### If you want to be listed

Submit information by mail, e-mail (art@timeoutchicago.com) or fax (312-924-9350) to **Lauren Weinberg**. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest El station and bus routes, telephone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is noon Thursday, two weeks before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone. Listings are free but, as space is limited, inclusion is not guaranteed.

### How to use this section

The following is a selection of this week's exhibitions and events. For more museums, see the Around Town section.

- ★ Recommended or notable
- ◆ Reviewed in this issue
- ◆ Cheap

## Museums & Institutions

### Art Center in Highland Park

**FREE** 1957 Sheridan Rd., Highland Park (847-432-1888, theartcenterhp.org). **Metra:** Union Pacific N to Highland Park. **Mon–Fri 9am–4pm, Sat 9am–3pm.**

★ **"For a Limited Time Only."** As their works deteriorate or completely disintegrate over the course of the show, five artists including Shawn Stucky and Annie Heckman explore "the ephemeral nature of art." Curator Olga Stefan supplies an edible catalog. **Opens Fri 6, 6:30–9pm. Through Mar 28.**

### Art Institute of Chicago

111 S Michigan Ave at Adams St (312-443-3600, artic.edu/aic). **El:** Red, Blue to Jackson; Orange, Green, Pink, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Adams. **Bus:** 3, X3, 4 (24hrs), X4, 6, 14, 26, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151 (24hrs), 157. **Metra:** Elec Main to Millennium Station. **Mon–Fri 10:30am–5pm; Thu 10:30–8pm; Sat, Sun 10am–5pm. \$12; seniors, students and kids \$7; kids under 12 free. Thursdays 5–8pm free.**

★ **"The Beauty of the Beasts: Artists and Their Pets in 20th-Century Art."** The Ryerson Library compiles an "aw"-inspiring assortment of books that highlight four-legged muses. **Closed Sundays. Through Mar 16.**

★ **"Soaring Peaks, Lofly Spirits."** Mountains inspired these Chinese paintings from the past 400 years, which convey varying degrees of action and repose. **Through Apr 12.**

► **"Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety and Myth."** Feel like you want to *Scream*? You'll appreciate the Norwegian artist's 150 rarely seen paintings and drawings. This exhibition requires a special ticket. **Through Apr 26.**

★ **"Yousuf Karsh: Regarding Heroes."** A hundred iconic images from the late Canadian photographer's 60-year career include famous portraits of Winston Churchill, Audrey Hepburn and Albert Einstein. **Through Apr 26.**

### Arts Club of Chicago

**FREE** 201 E Ontario St at St. Clair St (312-787-3997). **El:** Red to Chicago. **Bus:** 3, 10, 26, 66, 125, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151 (24hrs). **Mon–Fri 11am–6pm.**

### "Sigmar Polke: Lens Paintings."

Polke's one of Germany's most important postwar artists, but these 34 paintings aren't as groundbreaking as we'd hoped. This series, which Polke began in 2006, mimics lenticulars: pictures that "magically" change as you alter your vantage point. But the corrugated plastic sheets Polke incorporates into his works create distortions with no sense of movement. Though some pieces display the artist's trademark talent for combining interesting images, most seem shallow—despite their layers of unusual materials. **Through Apr 17.** —*Lauren Weinberg*

### Chicago Cultural Center

**FREE** 77 E Randolph St at Michigan Ave (312-744-9350, chicagoculturalcenter.org). **El:** Red to Lake; Orange, Pink, Green, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Randolph. **Bus:** 3, X3, 4 (24hrs), X4, 6, 10, 14, 26, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151 (24hrs), 157. **Metra:** Elec Main to Millennium Station. **Mon–Thu 8am–7pm; Fri 8am–6pm; Sat 9am–6pm; Sun 10am–6pm.**

★ **"Two Lithuanian Printmakers: Egle Vertelkaitė & Birute Zokaitytė."** Both artists fuse traditional and contemporary printmaking techniques to comment on women's issues. **Through Mar 29.**

★ **"William Conger: Paintings 1958–2008."** The seventysomething Chicago artist's first major retrospective makes you wonder what he could do with another 50 years. Conger's 60-plus, mostly large-scale works suggest he's one of the 20th century's great American painters. His commitment to Abstract Expressionism has never wavered—but his signature vivid colors, geometric forms and allusions to real-world phenomena have constantly evolved. **Through Mar 29.** —*Kathryn Born*

★ **"Collaborative Vision: The Poetic Dialogue Project."** Teams of artists and poets collaborated on these paintings, photographs, sculptures, artists' books and installations that integrate text and images. The project was coordinated by Chicago artist Beth Shadur. **Through Apr 5.**

★ **"Robert Davis + Michael Langlois: House of the Rising Sun."** Nostalgia suffuses the Chicago- and Brooklyn-based duo's four-piece suite: Davis and Langlois tap into teen horniness in Babylon, filling every square inch of the large, blue-tinted painting with enough nude babes, twining vegetation, sumo wrestlers and interspecies couplings for several 1970s rock posters. *Dads* reproduces two *Brady Bunch*-era photographs of the artists' fathers. These works suggest that longing for the past can hold us back, but *Face of God*'s cheerful, abstract depiction of the sun concludes the show with optimism. **Through Apr 5.** —*Amy Schroeder*

★ **"Scott Wolnik: Ungrey: Color, Light and Other Balms."** Wolnik attempts to cheer chilled Chicagoans with a multimedia installation that simultaneously mocks and emulates alternative healing practices such as rhythmic breathing, light and color therapies, and aura cleansing. **Through Apr 5.**

### Chicago Tourism Center

**FREE** 72 E Randolph St at Garland Ct (312-744-6630). **El:** Red to Lake; Blue to Washington; Orange, Green, Brown, Pink, Purple (rush hrs) to Randolph. **Bus:** 3, 4 (24hrs), 14, 124, 145, 157. **Mon–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 10am–4pm.**

★ **"The Exquisite City."** More than 70 artists constructed this cardboard metropolis, which bears a striking resemblance to Chicago. **Through Mar 15.**

### City Gallery in the Historic Water Tower

**FREE** 806 N Michigan Ave at Chicago Ave (312-742-0808). **El:** Red to Chicago. **Bus:** 66, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 151 (24hrs). **Mon–Sat 10am–6:30pm; Sun 10am–5pm.**

★ **"Colleen Plumb: Animals are Outside Today."** Plumb's unsettling