

Covering the Suburbs and Chicago

Chicago[®] Windy City Guide

April 2008

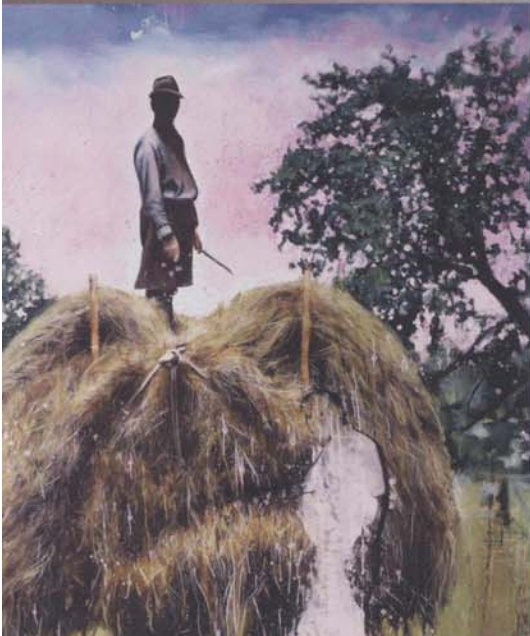
ARTROPOLIS 2008

also

Chicago Art Galleries

Akaushi Beef at
Sam & Harry's





The Merchandise Mart's Artropolis

By Helen A. Lee

Even if you think you know nothing about art, we'll bet you know what you like. And this April 25th through 28th in Chicago, there will be plenty to like! If you're at all interested in the visual arts you'll find something to command your attention at Artropolis 2008, whether it's a well-cared-for antique or a bold image of modern sensibility.

During this unique annual event, Chicago becomes a true destination for art lovers of all interests. Five art shows run concurrently at the Merchandise Mart. It's like sampling the best international museums all in one place, except that you can purchase just the right piece to match your taste.

Last year's event attracted over 42,000 visitors—and many more are expected this year. The host committee of Chicago's most influential businesses and civic leaders along with more than 80 cultural partners have planned this weekend long event. These museums, theatres, clubs and more will provide additional lectures, events, tours, performances and discounted admissions to go along with this unparalleled weekend of creative stimulation. Together with the shows at The Mart, this is a city-side celebration of culture not to be missed.

The centerpiece of Artropolis is Art Chicago 2008, a carefully vetted competition of 181 of the world's foremost contemporary and modern art galleries. Approximately 350 galleries applied for inclusion. Selections were made based on quality, by a distinct committee of experts. As a result, leading galleries from 56 cities in 18 countries will be represented, including Seoul, Paris, Düsseldorf, Los Angeles, and New York. This will encompass the works of more than 2,000 artists in a variety of media—painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, prints and video installations. Some modern masters will be displayed as well. Art Chicago will be a destination for curators, museum groups, seasoned and beginning collectors and art enthusiasts alike.

NEXT is the newest component to Artropolis. These galleries did not apply, but rather were invited to participate, based on a focused

curatorial vision of emerging dealers that offer cutting-edge works of contemporary art. Works from the public and private sectors will be featured, along with galleries, project spaces, artist collectives, art publications and key private collections. 170 galleries will be exhibiting major new talents.

The Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair is now in its 11th year. Over 130 dealers showcase the best high-quality antiques and fine art from around the world. If you're interested in Modernism, Asian art, ceramics, decorative arts, furniture glass, jewelry, posters, rare books, maps, silver textiles, tribal art, coins or architectural design, you're sure to find something to love here.

The Artist Project is a juried event designed specifically to display the work of 300 independent artists as yet undiscovered by the gallery community. Many of these artists are local, though some come from as far away as Europe and all have different visions and backgrounds to draw from. In any case, this is a good chance to pick up an affordable piece of art, and discover an artist on your own.

The Intuit Show benefits Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art. This distinctive element of Artropolis focuses on self-taught art, outsider art, art brut, ethnographic art, non-traditional folk art and visionary art. If you're on the lookout for something a little off the beaten path, this is the show to visit.

Artropolis is the place to be in April; there's no doubt about it. The five shows open to the public on Friday, April 25th, and run through Monday, April 28th. Multi-day passes cost \$25 (\$15 for seniors and students), or you can get single-day tickets priced at \$20 good for all shows. Each show is located on a different floor of the Merchandise Mart building at 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza.

ARTROPOLIS™

For more information about individual shows and events, visit www.merchandisemart.com, www.artropolischicago.com, or call (800) 677-MART.