

Art Letter

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There's a short-lived calm settling over the Chicago art scene right now; sort of like the calm of a rattle snake slowly curling its tail preparing to strike. Art Chicago returns to the Merchandise Mart April 24th through April 28th and Chicago galleries are beginning to stage the exhibitions they'll be presenting during the hometown's most important weekend of the year.

There's some good art to see and some good shows coming. These are after all the exhibitions the dealers presenting them think best defines their gallery as well as being shows they think they can make money on.



I'm impressed with what's coming up for Artropolis and Art Chicago The Mart's built solidly on last year's performance, substantially increasing the caliber of the galleries participating. It's a good lists And the Mart has moved the fair up several floors to where they've installed permanent walls throughout which significantly improves the exhibition's ambiance. More than booths the space will read like lots of individual galleries.

I'm most looking forward to the introduction of the NEXT Fair which is an invitational and will be presented just a few floors down from Art Chicago. It is a balanced show of challenging strong galleries each of whom will be presenting but one single artist. I've had lot of problems with the hyperbolic sensationalism of the "better" fairs around the world. I've even canceled attending international shows because of the B.S. And I'm eager to see the NEXT Fair. I expect it to be meaty. Something I can ponder and learn from - and get into some context, because there are other works nearby. I like that there's an entire show dedicated to a risky principal. Check out the list of exhibitors. This show alone is reason enough to come, and it's not even the "A" show. That's Art Chicago with quite a few folks we haven't seen in Chicago ever - or in eons.