



Worldwide talents converge for Art Chicago April 25-28

One hundred and eighty-one of the world's foremost contemporary and modern art galleries will come together for Art Chicago 2008 April 25-28 at Chicago's Merchandise Mart.

Three hundred and fifty galleries applied – up 17 percent from a year ago. In addition, 95 percent of the 132 exhibitors who participated in the 2007 fair re-applied for 2008.

“The quality of our 2008 exhibitor list defines Art Chicago as a prominent international contemporary and modern art fair,” Art Chicago sales director Tony Karman said in a press release. “Leading galleries – from Chicago to Seoul, from Paris to Los Angeles – will offer an extraordinary experience for art collectors, curators and art enthusiasts, showcasing works of more than 2,000 artists in a variety of media including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, prints and video installations.”

Art Chicago is part of ARTropolis, a citywide celebration of arts, antiques and culture. It runs concurrently with the International Antiques Fair, featuring more than 120 of the world's top dealers. Tickets are \$20 for a day pass, \$25 for a multiple-day pass. Admission for students and seniors is \$15. It provides entry to both shows, as well as three satellite shows running concurrently in the Merchandise Mart:

The Artist Project: An exhibition and sale featuring original work from independent, cutting-edge artists. Information: www.theartistproject.com.

Intuit Show of Folk and Outsider Art: Sponsored by and benefiting Intuit – The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art – it features the sale of self-taught art, outsider art, art brut, ethnographic art, non-traditional folk art and visionary art. It brings together leading dealers and galleries from around the world. Information: www.art.org/intuitshow.

NEXT: This curated, invitational show focuses on new and emerging artists with a focus on contemporary art. Information: www.nextartfair.com

Art Chicago runs 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 25-26; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 27; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 28. For information, call 312-527-4141 or visit www.merchandisemart.com/artropolis.

BIG BUGS

Morton Arboretum in Lisle is hosting an exhibit of David Rogers' bug sculptures April 25 through July 20. The dozen are built mainly of trees, dried branches, tree roots and green saplings. Three ants are 25 feet long, 12 feet wide and 10 feet high. A daddy longlegs spider is 17 feet in diameter and weighs 450 pounds. Its body is made of willow, the eyes and spindly legs of red cedar.

Other colossal creatures include dragonfly, damselfly, grasshopper, ladybug, assassin bug and a bee with its hive.

The Big Bugs exhibit is free with Arboretum admission, which is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors; \$6 for children ages 3 to 17 and free for those younger than 3. There is a reduced admission on Wednesdays.

Morton Arboretum is at Routes 88 and 53. For information, call 630-968-0074 or visit www.mortonarb.org.

STITCH IN TIME

The International Quilt Festival is April 11-13 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 and \$8 for seniors and students. Children 10 and younger are free. A \$25 three-day pass includes the preview night 5 to 9 p.m. April 10.

The festival features more than 100 educational classes and dozens of demonstrations. It includes more than 500 booths selling everything from antique and contemporary quilts to fabric, tools, patterns and books. Many other vendors will also offer antiques, jewelry and country crafts. From large fabric companies to small mom-and-pop shops, festival vendors and special exhibits will spread out over 250,000 square feet in the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.

For information, visit www.quilts.com or call 713-781-6864.

SHOW AND TELL

The Emerson Lofts sales office, 320 N. Seminary Ave., is hosting the abstract work of William Oliver Reed throughout April. The month-long show culminates with a sale 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 26- 27. Reed, of Woodstock, uses photography, watercolors, abstract pencil and digital color to create a variety of abstract works. For information, call 815-276-4267 or e-mail william@wmreed.com

The Starline Gallery, 306 W. Front St., Harvard, is hosting an exhibition of Gabriel Karagianis' work as well as that of several other artists. The show, 7 p.m. to midnight April 12 and noon to 8 p.m. April 13, is the gallery's ninth show.

Bull Valley photographer Robin Pendergrast is hosting a digital sky art exhibit through May 6 at the Conscious Cup, 625D Cog Circle, Crystal Lake. It features 16 images shot from 800 feet to 85 miles above the Earth.

Proceeds from all sales benefit the McHenry County Defenders environmental group.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The Raue Center For The Arts is accepting artist applications for its 2008-09 gallery season.

Artists interested in exhibiting should submit an informational prospectus and a selection of their work in digital format on a CD.

For a prospectus packet or any questions, call Kate Wilford at 815-356-9010 or visit www.rauecenter.org.

The submission deadline is Aug. 20.

The Raue's Visual Arts Committee uses an anonymous jury process. Work is judged based on creative ability, artistic merit, character and technical quality. Most exhibits will have a run of five to six weeks. The Raue also hosts a reception, providing an opportunity for the public to meet each artist.