



## Print Article



The logo for Art Chicago 2011  
(Alexander Calder's *Flamingo* at Federal Plaza in Chicago)



Alex Katz at Art Chicago 2010



The scene at NEXT 2010



The Merchandise Mart antiques show,  
2010

## Artropolis 2011 CHICAGO, OUR FAIR CITY

Apr. 21, 2011

'Tis the season for **Artropolis**, Apr. 29-May 2, 2011, Chicago's own "celebration of art, antiques and culture," courtesy big businessman **Chris Kennedy** and his **Merchandise Mart** organization, whose trio of art fairs -- **Art Chicago**, **NEXT** and the **Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair** -- set up on Chicago's Miracle Mile in the city's iconic Art Deco Merchandise Mart building.

Any art fair worth its salt kicks off with a big party, and for Artropolis, the big fête is the **First Focus Benefit** on Apr. 28, which offers a preview of Art Chicago and NEXT, appetizers and cocktails, a book signing by photo artist **Laura Letinsky** and more, not least of which is VIP admission to the fairs. A gaggle of museum visitors are expected, imported from **MoMA**, the **Baltimore Museum**, the **Walker Art Center** and elsewhere. Proceeds from the VIP opening -- tickets start at \$150 -- go to the **Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago**.

And the gallery lineup? Well, that's been Art Chicago's big problem for several years. More than one uncharitable observer pointed out that Merchandise Mart, despite its successful operation of the **Armory Show** and **Volta**, has so far been unable to energize its hometown art fair. The problem, needless to say, is not who does exhibit, but rather all the big shots who do not.

At any rate, the fair's 100-plus art dealers include **Cynthia Corbett** (London), **Galerie Bhak** (Seoul), **Browse & Darby** (London), **Robert Berman** (Santa Monica) and **Paul Thiebaud** (San Francisco). New York participants include **Dillon**, **Forum**, **Kathryn Markel**, **June Kelly**, **Kips Gallery**, **Laurence Miller** and **Hollis Taggart**.

Some excellent Chicago galleries are taking booths, including **Corbett vs. Dempsey**, **Douglas Dawson**, **Catherine Edelman**, **Carl Hammer**, **Kasia Kay**, **McCormick**, **Perimeter**, **Carrie Secrist** and **Zolla/Lieberman**.

Artropolis incorporates its own satellite fair of emerging art -- **NEXT 2011** -- overseen by **Ken Tyburski**, a former partner in **DCKT Contemporary** in New York, and **Kavi Gupta**, the Chicago dealer who co-founded the **Volta** art fair. Both DCKT and Gupta are participating in Next, along with **Allegra LaViola** and **Spencer Brownstone** (New York), **Green Gallery** (Milwaukee), **Charlie James** (Los Angeles), **Molesworth** (Dublin) and **Steven Zevitas** (Boston).

Both Art Chicago and NEXT bow side-by-side on the 12th floor, and



Tom Leighton, *Shibuya Umbrella 4*, 2010, at Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London



Jessica Backhaus, *Marlon Brando*, 2006, at Laurence Miller



Larry Mullins, *Reveille*, 2009-11, at Blythe Projects



have enlisted Los Angeles graffiti superstar **Shepard Fairey** to create a special project space, sponsored by **Robert Berman Gallery**.

The fair has also enlisted **Chicago Sculpture International** to organize a show of more than 20 sculptures in spaces around the building, by artists ranging from **Nicole Beck** and **Michael Brown** to **Jason Verbeek** and **Mike Young**. Sculptures and installations are also presented by **NEXT Projects**, including works by **Theaster Gates**, **Cordy Ryman**, **Lynne Harlow**, **Anindita Dutta** and **Zach Taylor**.

The fair's "New Insight" exhibition is back, organized by **Susanne Ghez**, director of **The Renaissance Society**, and presenting artworks by MFA MFA students from around the country. Another curated show is "Focus Photography," which occupies an entire floor with contemporary and vintage photography works.

In the Artropolis "Talk Shop," artists and curators pair off, including **Denver MCA** director **Adam Lerner** and D.C. artist **Jim Sanborn**; **Laumeier Sculpture Park** chief **Marilu Knode** with **Jessica Stockholder**; **Chicago MCA** curator **Julie Rodriguez** and artist **Rashid Johnson**.

Also on offer is **College Art Association**-sponsored panel created in the wake of the **National Gallery of Art / David Wojnarowicz** scandal titled "Edgy Art; Who's Collecting It, Who's Exhibiting It?" on Apr. 29th, which features a pretty impressive lineup: Boston University **Art History Professor Patricia Hills**, former New York dealer **Barry Blinderman** (now gallery director at Illinois State University) and **Exit Art's Lauren Rosati**.

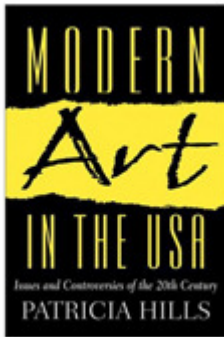
Now in its 14th year, **The Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair** features more than 100 antique dealers on the eighth floor of the Merchandise Mart. It kicks off on Apr. 28th with a gala benefit for the **Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago**; tickets start at \$150. Tickets to Artropolis -- all three fairs -- are \$20, with a multiday pass good for return visits costing only \$5 more.

Visitors to Chicago have plenty to see if they can tear themselves away from the myriad festivities inside the Merchandise Mart building. The **Art Institute of Chicago**, for instance, has a special exhibition of photos of sliced sausage by **Fischli & Weiss**. Open there on Apr. 30 is "Altered and Adorned: Using Renaissance Prints in Daily Life."

As for the Chicago MCA, it is featuring an eight-minute selection of folk songs about the **Haymarket Rebellion** played in a dark room, courtesy of Scottish sound artist **Susan Philipsz**. Opening on May 28, 2011, is a survey of sociopolitical map abstractions by South Central artist **Mark Bradford**.

At the **Renaissance Society** exhibition space at the **University of Chicago**, "The Age of Aquarius" is just ending its run (to May 1, 2011), a show of video and installation works reflecting "the lingering cultural fallout of the 1960s" by **Carol Bove**, **Amy Grappell** and **David Noonan**.

David Wojnarowicz, *Silence = Death*



Patricia Hills, *Modern Art in the USA: Issues and Controversies of the 20th Century*, 2000 (Prentice Hall)



Fischli & Weiss, *In the Carpetshop*, from "The Sausage Photographs," at the Art Institute of Chicago



Susan Philipsz in a photo by Taavetti Alin, used in the press materials for her exhibition at the Chicago MCA



David Noonan, *Untitled*, 2010, in "Age

Among the city's commercial galleries, one not to miss is **Richard Gray Gallery**, which was founded in 1963, and specializes in 20th-century moderns as well as contemporary artists, from **Magdalena Abakanowicz** and **Josef Albers** to **Cy Twombly** and **Andy Warhol**.

**Donald Young Gallery**, located across from the Art Institute on Michigan Avenue and handles international Blue Chip contemporary art, has a four-person show on view, featuring works by **Anne Chu**, **Moyra Davey**, **Jeanne Dunning** and **Rebecca Warren**.

**Monique Meloche**, who regularly hits the art fair circuit but who (like Richard Gray and many other local dealers) is sitting out Art Chicago, has on view an environment of large-scale drawings by Belgian artist **Rinus Van de Velde** in a show called "Dear David Johnson," an elaboration of the artist's fabricated autobiography. The exhibition is his first in Chicago.

In business since 2004, **Corbett & Dempsey** -- operated by **John Corbett** and **Jim Dempsey** -- specializes in Chicago art, and art that carries on that spirit. "**John Sparagana**: Between the Eyes" closes at the gallery on Apr. 30, but the gallery is presenting "Walter Hamady: Search Engine" at Art Chicago, along with works by **Richard Artschwager**, **Albert Oehlen**, **Christopher Wool** and others.

The photo specialist **Catherine Edelman Gallery**, which opened in 1987 and currently keeps its own blog (called **Cyclops**), is currently featuring an exhibition of photographs by **Steve Schapiro** from two major **Francis Ford Coppola** films -- the *Godfather* and *Taxi Driver*. Prints of these classic images range in price from \$1,600 to \$5,500.

**Russell Bowman Fine Art** -- headed by the former head of the **Milwaukee Art Museum** -- offers a full range of art consultancy services, and is currently presenting an exhibition of works by the newly discovered Chicago street photographer **Vivian Maier** (1926-2009). The first exhibition of the widely traveled photographer, who worked as a nanny in Chicago, recently took place at the **Chicago Culture Center**.

The relatively new **ACRE** (Artist's Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions), founded in 2010, features weekly exhibitions. Opening Apr. 30 is "Happy Collaborationists Exhibition Space" and a show by **Myranda Gillies & Elspeth Vance**.

**McCormick Gallery** in the West Loop, which specializes in American painting and sculpture and particularly Abstract Expressionism, boasts a show of drawings from the 1960s by Color Field painter **Jack Roth** (1927-2004), who showed his paintings in "Younger American Paintings" at the **Guggenheim Museum** in 1954 and later at **Knoedler Gallery**. The exhibition at McCormick is whimsically titled "When I Grow Up I Want to Be Just Like Jasper Johns." Then, opening on Saturday, Apr. 30, 2011, is a presentation of new works by **Nicole Northway** and **Michael Hedges**.

Also in the West Loop is **Robert Bills Contemporary**, an exhibitor in the NEXT art fair, who unveils **Anindita Dutta's** "Wrest in Peace" with an evening reception on Apr. 30, 2011. The show includes

of Aquarius" at the Renaissance Society



Rebecca Warren, *The Republic*, 2010, at Donald Young Gallery



Walter Hamady, proprietor of Perishable Press, at Corbett & Dempsey at Art Chicago



Steve Schapiro, *Jody on Couch, "Taxi Driver,"* New York, 1975, at Catherine Edelman Gallery



Vivian Maier, *New York (Two Children on Blanket)*, 1951-55, at Russell

figural sculptures of clay and mud that incorporate the traces of previous live performances.

In the River North Gallery District, the 3,000-square-foot **Gallery KH** -- founded over 30 years ago by **Mary Bell** and now directed by **Lissa Kivisto** -- presents "After-Image," an exhibition of new photographic works by Canadian artist **Robert Berlin** that explore movement and ritual in Seville, Bali and Siem Reap.

**Peter Bartlow Gallery**, now located at 22 West Ontario, describes its current exhibition simply as "Group Show" and describes its exhibition thus: "**Elvira** Bronzes **Brainard** oils **Mark Campbell** paintings on wood and stone **Anna Caser** canvases **Willy Heeks** oils."

Visitors to **Jennifer Norback Fine Art** can see photographs by **Christopher Rauschenberg** (the son of Robert), astonishingly beautiful found juxtapositions of oddments captured in Paris flea markets. Rauschenberg's reception is slated for Apr. 29.

Norback is presenting, too, pastels by **David Loeb**, precise, deeply colored, jewel-like -- ca. 8 x 8 inches square -- compositions that show a bowl of apples, each with a missing slice like a butterfly, or perhaps a plate of rocks, all smooth and red and gray, the place setting framed by a curling magenta ribbon.

**F.L. Braswell Fine Art**, an exhibitor in the 2011 Merchandise Mart International Antiques Fair, specializes in modern Master Works on paper.

The nine-year-old **Valerie Carberry Gallery**, a member of the **Art Dealers Association of America**, is closing an exhibition of new works by artists **Judith Belzer**, **Susanna Coffey**, **Laura Letinsky** and **Jim Lutes** on Apr. 30. For visitors who can linger in the city till May 6, 2011, the gallery is collaborating with **Wright** auctioneers to present a special exhibition of **Tony Smith's** hard-core Ab-Ex Minimalist *Wall* (1964), the first showing of a major Smith work in Chicago in 40 years.

**Rhona Hoffman Gallery** features fantastic new works by Pakistani artist **Huma Bhabha**, made from clay, chicken wire, Styrofoam, wood and other discarded materials, including a gigantic foot, *Jhukarjodaro* (2011), which appears to be overgrown by its own sinews.

**Kasia Kay Art Projects** is exhibiting at Art Chicago with artists **Kevin Berlin**, **James Olley**, **Rim Lee**, **Claudia Hart**, **Daniel Bruttig**, **David A. Parker**, **Duncan R. Anderson**, **Kristin Anderson** and **Erika Harrsch**.

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Bowman Fine Art



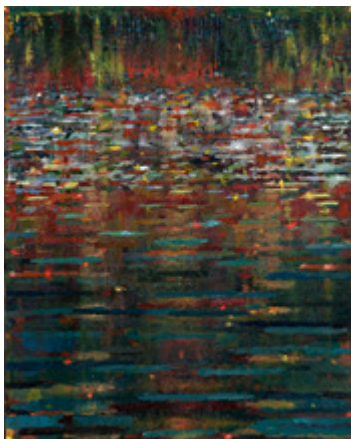
McCormick Gallery, Chicago



Anindita Dutta, *Wrest in Peace* performance, Robert Bills Contemporary, Chicago



Christopher Rauschenberg, *Paris Flea Market XV*, 2008, at Jennifer Norback Fine Art, Chicago



Susanna Coffey, *Takenaga's Division*, 2010, at Valerie Carberry Gallery, Chicago



Huma Bhabha at Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago



Kevin Berlin, *The Emperor's New Clothes #7*, 2008, at Kasia Kay Art Projects



Rim Lee, *Beyond Max Ernst (Penis Envy) No. 3*, 2010, at Kasia Kay Art Projects