

News - What's Happening

Letter from the Publisher



As we continue to add to CGN's catalog of Chicago art world profiles, a diverse picture has started to form—it conveys the vibrancy, passion and dynamism of our local community of artists, dealers and collectors.

There's been grumbling for years in Chicago about the state of its art criticism - the writing isn't critical; it's too negative; there's not enough; there is enough but no one reads it. At the end of the day, what's the goal and what's the impact of writing about and promoting the visual arts? One truth is that for the general public, as well as the art world, to benefit from the uniqueness of Chicago's creative community, individuals must pay attention on many levels and be engaged so they don't miss what's happening right now.

It's simple to read an interview in a magazine, but CGN tries to let readers know that there are more spontaneous conversations out there waiting to be started. I like to note the obvious topic of New Year's resolutions for our January issue, so I want to encourage people in 2011 to *speak up*. Ask questions. Go on tours. Send letters to the editors of newspapers, art magazines, and websites. Leave comments and share feedback on blogs and online forums. Take note of your own thoughts; tell us whom you think CGN should interview in our art community.

Our conversations continue online, since we maintain a blog on chicagogallerynews.com. The blog fits in nicely with two panel discussions we held in 2010—at Art Chicago and at the Hyde Park Art Center—about art world social networking. As there are more channels for communicating and gathering information there is also a wealth of new information and perspectives to mine and a need to keep up with new media and resources.

While everyone feels vulnerable in the current economy, we can be open to new ideas, questions, and conversations. We'd rather see things continue and grow than wither and disappear, which is why we've asked some art world insiders to share their perspectives, as well as some history, this issue. No matter what level of artist or collector you are, or how long you've run your gallery or space, now is the time to see what others have to say. By talking you'll be providing critical fuel to what can become an enduring fire.

- Ginny Berg

As we begin 2011, we celebrate a year of learning! There are many museums and art institutions we hope you visit this winter in between your gallery hopping; please see our calendar of events, attend artist talks and discussions, and catch exhibition highlights on our art blog.

We present several stellar profiles of Chicago artists, dealers, and collectors this issue. There is much to learn from those around us, including quite a bit of Chicago art history; we are always pleased that these generous people share their stories here so that you may one day be inspired to share your own.

Chicago Exhibitions to Visit This Winter



Dan Zamudio, *Next Stop*, 2008, silver gelatin print, "Toy Camera Photograph." Courtesy of the photographer.

Chicago and the Diana: Toy Camera Images by Dan Zamudio at the Cultural Center

The Diana Camera was first marketed to be an inexpensive novelty gift in the 1960s, followed by the Holga, and other plastic-bodied cameras. Although production ended in the 1970s, the lo-fi, dreamy images that Diana cameras produced established a cult following among artists. The resurgence of interest in these vintage cameras has spawned a new run of the original turquoise and black design, not to mention several apps available for purchase for smartphones.

Dan Zamudio, one of Diana's many admirers, uses the "toy" camera to capture historic architectural elements around Chicago. His small, hand-printed, nostalgic, black and white images look like snapshots from an aging photo album. Neon signs around the city serve as vanishing links to the past; multiple exposures impart ghostly movement. Zamudio's layered cityscapes recall the shadowy, dramatic look of film noir from the 1940s and 1950s, offering a look at a long-gone Chicago, glimpsed again through the buildings of today.

The opening reception is on January 7, 5:30-7:30 pm. Zumudio will lead a gallery tour and speak about his work on February 24 at 12:15 pm.

At the Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington (60602)
through March 27, 2011.

Kings, Queens, and Courtiers: Art in Early Renaissance France at the Art Institute

Expansion by the ambitious French kings Charles VIII and Louis XII brought Italian Renaissance art back to France in the 16th century, fusing its influence with Northern European Gothic styles. The Art Institute of Chicago brings together this unique moment of cultural and political transition through painted altarpieces, tapestries, manuscripts, monumental sculpture, stained glass windows, portrait medals and exquisite goldsmithing. Much of the art, produced for the kings, reflects issues of royal patronage and divine devotion.



The exhibit's accompanying catalog will be the first full examination of the subject in English.

Jean Hey. *The Annunciation*, 1490/95. Mr. & Mrs. Martin A. Ryerson Collection.

At the Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan (60603)
Regenstein Hall
February 27–May 30, 2011