

***Autofall* by Patricia Swanson**

April 18 – October 17, 2010

Exhibition Reception: Sunday, May 23, 3-5 pm

Foyer Project Space

Gallery Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Sunday: 12pm – 5pm



Pat Swanson, *Autofall* (detail), 2010, found metal, dimensions variable

Chicago, IL (April 2010) – The Hyde Park Art Center is pleased to present *Autofall*, a textured metal installation by Patricia Swanson on view from April 18 to October 17, 2010. The new large-scale wall assemblage uses repurposed auto parts to muse on the fate of the American auto industry, paying homage to the beauty of these worn and misshapen objects.

Swanson's *Autofall* uses abandoned auto parts, found on the streets of Chicago, to depict the downward tumble of the United States auto industry. The abandoned car parts, once functioning components of a sophisticated mechanism, are symbolic objects of industrial obsolescence. The gallery walls provide a fresh canvas to closely examine and appreciate the jagged shapes and rich surfaces that often go unnoticed on the street. The metal pieces will cascade down the walls like a metal waterfall. According to Swanson the arrangements of miscellaneous parts "suggests a downward cascade from useful and functional to fragmented and fragile."

For nearly a decade, Patricia Swanson has mined urban detritus to create poetic works in collage, photography and installation. Her art work has been exhibited at Gallery 360SEE, the Old Town Art Center and the Riverside Art Center among other local spaces. She has taken classes at the Hyde Park Art Center, Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. As a former member of the Exhibitions Committee at the Hyde Park Art Center (1997-2007), Swanson has curated several exhibitions including *Another Story* (2007) and *Andy Paczos: Abandoned Demolition* (2009).

Autofall will be on view from April 18, 2010 until October 17, 2010 at the Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60615; 773.324.5520 and www.hydeparkart.org. Hyde Park Art Center exhibitions are always free and open to the public.

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions; primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.