

Upcoming Events

Artist Talk

Thursday, May 7

6 – 8pm

Rosenheim will discuss her current exhibition, *Swallow City*, and the methodologies behind her practice.

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, April 19

3 – 5pm

Meet Nancy Lu Rosenheim to celebrate *Swallow City*, along with concurrent exhibitions: Susan Giles: *Scenic Overlook*; ArtShop: *Collective Possibilities*; and *Nature's Matrix*: Work by Charles Heppner and Diane Jaderberg, as well as the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Guida Family Creative Wing.

Magical Landscapes

June 22 – June 26

Get inspired by the fantastical environments imagined by artist Nancy Lu Rosenheim, on display in her Art Center exhibition *Swallow City*. You'll work alongside the artist herself to create your own sculptural forest of magical, mystical flora and fauna.

Ages 4 & up.

Nancy Lu Rosenheim is an interdisciplinary artist based in Chicago. Her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions across the United States including The Anchorage Museum of History and Art (AK), Palm Springs Desert Museum (CA), as well as galleries around Chicago: Koehnline Museum of Art, ARC Gallery, Union League Club, and The Ralph Arnold Fine Arts Annex Gallery. Currently, she is Associate Professor of Art Foundations and Illustration and Design at the Illinois Institute of Art-Chicago. Rosenheim holds an MFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY, and studied Art and Art History at Skidmore College, NY

Hyde Park **ART**CENTER

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Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. The Art Center is funded in part by the: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Harpo Foundation; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Joyce Foundation; Leo S. Guthman Fund; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; Polk Bros. Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of people like you.

Nancy Lu Rosenheim: *Swallow City*

Gallery 2 & Lobby

April 12 - July 12



Nancy Lu Rosenheim, *Hutments*, 2014, mixed media on paper, 24 x 48 inches

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Nancy Lu Rosenheim brings bursts of swirling color and movement to the Art Center in her first major Chicago exhibition, *Swallow City*. Rosenheim's constructed environments point to the underlying tension between nature and humanity with nature's ultimate ability to overpower and repurpose built spaces. Transforming Gallery 2 and the Lobby of the Art Center, these sculptures weave between playful and foreboding.

This mixed-media installation includes ink, pastel and charcoal drawings on paper and a variety of sculptural materials including polystyrene, paper pulp, plaster, detritus, papier-mâché, chicken wire, epoxy resin and other mixed-media materials. Through various approaches to scale and materials, Rosenheim's sculptures and drawings respond to the hybridity of natural and architectural structures to create an otherworldly (human-made) landscape.

Despite her use of bright and cartoonish color, Rosenheim's installations are not whimsical; rather, they explore the capacity for nature to become an all-encompassing – even destructive – force. Rosenheim began to develop *Swallow City* while studying how swallows gradually take over abandoned barns and farm houses as they build their nests in Southwest Wisconsin. Rosenheim was drawn to the birds' ability to repurpose pre-existing structures to create quasi-human dwelling spaces and newly created mini-cities. Throughout the installation, Rosenheim's sculptures allude to the simultaneous beauty and menace of these nests as they form a collective, encompassing unit.



Installation image of Nancy Lu Rosenheim, *Helix Thitpok*, 2015, polystyrene, paper pulp, plaster, epoxy resin and mixed media, 120 x 35 x 35 inches



Detail of installation image from Nancy Lu Rosenheim: *Or is it Silk Cotton? (Three Roots)*, 2015, polystyrene, epoxy resin and mixed media, 100 x 120 x 36 inches

In the Lobby, plastered pods of porous bulbs made from Easter-egg containers and other found materials hang under the central stairwell. Pulsing with energy as if they could burst or ooze at any moment, these bulbs reclaim the architectural space as their own. This site-specific

placement encourages viewers to actively notice an element of the building that typically goes unseen.

Swallow City investigates not only nature's ability to take over and repurpose built spaces, but how visitors spatially inhabit the Art Center's different architectural spaces. Each sculpture calls for movement, whether it is to crouch down in order to look under the stairwell or to circle the freestanding sculpture in the Lobby to take in its many perspectives.

Through all of these techniques, Rosenheim attempts to repurpose the Art Center's space creating a new, unfamiliar environment for visitors to navigate. Rosenheim was selected to participate in the 2015 exhibition program through the Art Center's submission process. The Art Center welcomes submissions of artists' work and curatorial proposals for group exhibitions on a rolling basis. Submissions are reviewed by the Exhibitions Committee, which



Installation image of Nancy Lu Rosenheim, *Swallow City*, 2015, polystyrene, resin, detritus, papier-mâché and chicken wire, dimensions vary



Left: Nancy Lu Rosenheim, *Helix Thitpok*, 2015, polystyrene, paper pulp, plaster, epoxy resin and mixed media, 120 x 35 x 35 inches
Right: Nancy Lu Rosenheim, *Or is it Silk-Cotton? (Three Roots)*, 2015, polystyrene, epoxy resin and mixed media, 100 x 120 x 36 inches

consists of artists and art professionals, as well as the Art Center's staff.

The Art Center's exhibition program is an incubator for artists looking to push the boundaries of their practice and whose work makes meaningful contributions to today's social and political discourse. By enabling artists to take risks and be entrepreneurial in their work, and giving them the broad exposure they deserve, the Art Center ensures that groundbreaking contemporary art gets made – and seen – in Chicago.

Samantha Reynolds
Curatorial Fellow