

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, February 14, 3-5pm

Talk with the Artist

Sunday, June 6, 2-4 pm

The artist will talk informally about his work.

About the Artist:

Stan Chisholm (a.k.a. 18andCounting) is an emerging interdisciplinary artist from St. Louis, Missouri who studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His collages, drawings, and mixed media installations reveal a growing cast of over 700 characters or mascots that serve as a visual lexicon for the moods, personal attributes or feelings explored in his work. Most recently, he created large-scale public art interventions in the MoneyBags (2009) project, also seen as part of the CTA Art on Track event in October 2009 (Chicago). For this project, Stan and his collaborator Lisa See Kim dropped cartoon-inspired “money bags” filled with humorous, satirical and politically-inspired messages in public areas in cities across the world, free for the taking. Chisholm’s work has also been exhibited at Laumeier Sculpture Park, City Museum (St. Louis), and the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis.

Stan would like to thank those who helped him during his residency and installation period: Sequila Freeman, Sabrina Severns, Ryan, Collin, Natty Froumis, Ali Seradge, Lisa See Kim, and Sarah “Bird” Weitzel. It would be a pile of paper, foam and heart ache without you all.

Hyde Park ARTCENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

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 3Arts, Alphawood Foundation; Boeing; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; Creative New Zealand; Harper Court Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; 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 Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Hyde ParkARTCENTER
Gallery 5

January 24 – April 25, 2010

Stan Chisholm:
ThingsThatNeverReallyHappened



Stan Chisholm, _____, 2010, Various papers and ink, dimensions variable

Stan Chisholm's *ThingsThatNeverReallyHappened* is a site-specific, life-size diorama operating under the artist's principle that everything is up for grabs. Chisholm draws from a variety of sources to create a multi-perspective storyline swirling together American history, personal recollections and stories and images spewed from pop culture. According to the artist, this unconventional narrative addresses issues of falsehood, future, fiction, and the beauty of ignorance and cold realizations.

Chisholm's immersive environment features a series of invented land masses ranging in size from tiny floating islands to large, human-scale environments, all populated by cartoon mascots. Each environment takes on the perspective of a different narrator to illustrate a memory, an inside joke, an imaginary history or an uncanny experience like the sensation of déjà vu. The installation playfully raises questions about the accuracy of perception itself, and identifies the artful fictions that make up everyday experience.

Over the course of his career, Chisholm has created an army of nearly 700 different "mascot characters" that appear and reappear in his paintings and installations. Inspired by cartoon characters like the Looney Tunes, the artist first created the figures as graphic line drawings on paper plates, later reusing or reinventing them in different projects. For this installation, the artist brings new mascots to life, each with their own back stories and narratives. These include Cape, a monstrous figure falling from the sky, of whom Chisholm says:



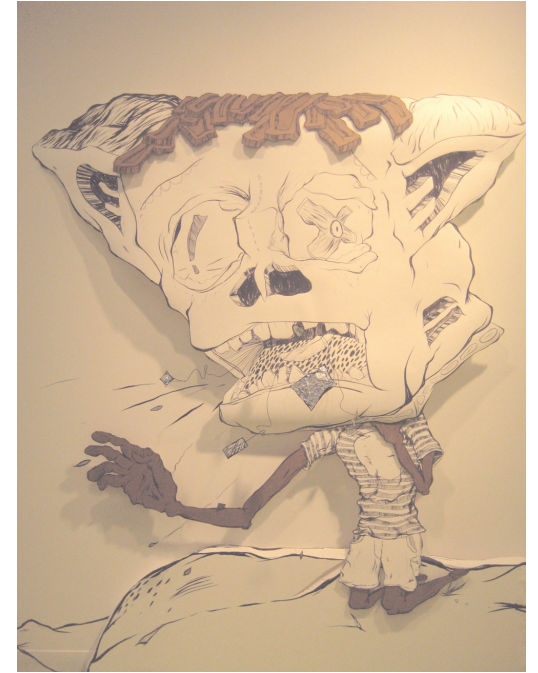
Stan Chisholm, *Cape*, 2010, Various papers and ink, dimensions variable

"While the good of the world is turned on its back and all hope is lost, from the clouds falls a gleeful caped figure oblivious of the duties around him. With his limbs loose, eyes shut and smirk locked in, no woe or foe stands a chance."

Another character, titled "ChokingOnTheMagicWord," greets the viewer immediately on entering the gallery. On his knees, he clutches his throat with one hand as metal wires leap from his mouth. According to the artist, this figure was inspired by the following sentiment:

"When you see someone on the brink and in mid performance, it is likely that they can't see you, for they are alone with the matter at hand. It's entertaining...harsh, inspiring, comedic, disappointing, fetishized, relieving, sad...and entertaining."

To create *ThingsThatNeverReallyHappened*, Chisholm spent three weeks in residence at the Hyde Park Art Center. During his time here, the artist actively blogged about his process (the results can be found at www.hydeparkart.org/4833). He began the installation by experimenting with line drawings, which he then projected, copied, collaged or pasted onto different types of paper and insulation foam, using ink or acrylic paint. According to Chisholm, using paper for this installation was a new step for him, and one that presented a major challenge. Paper tested his technical capabilities, causing him to depict depth in the picture plane by folding and layering different paper thicknesses. The artist explains: "for years I've been afraid of paper...but I gotta face my fears!"



Stan Chisholm, *ChokingOnTheMagicWord*, 2010, Paper, wire, foil and ink, dimensions variable



Stan Chisholm, *FranklinKiteBrigade + Graveyard For Things Dead and Killed*, 2010, Various papers, ink, acrylic, string, foam

The result of this experimentation is a starkly graphic, visually mesmerizing environment that floods the viewer with stories of fears and fantasy, anxiety and delusions, and triumph and disaster.

Ania Szremski
Exhibitions Assistant