

**Constellation features works by the following artists:**

Alice Baum, Dawn Brennan, Ruth Busch, Erin Burk, Holly Cahill, Elke Claus, Linda Cohn, Ollie Dantzler, Brad Farwell, Adam Ekberg, Sara Holwerda, Amanda Innis, Lisa Junkin, Jessica Lowery, Sarah Kaiser, Krystal Meisel, Justine Nagan, Anna Ressman, Valerie Richards, Kelly Rider, Darrell Roberts, Mark Siska, Hardy Schlick, Olivia Schreiner, Suzanne Sebold Suso, Mary Tepper, Ann Toebbe, Jessi T. Walsh, and Dale Washington.

**Gallery 2  
& The Cleve E. Carney Gallery**

July 7 - September 16, 2007

**Constellation: A Faculty Show**

Curated by Michelle Beckett



Adam Ekberg  
*Aberration #7*  
2006  
inkjet print  
20 x 24 inches

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**Hyde ParkARTCENTER**

**5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://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 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 Gaylor and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Lucius and Eva Eastman Foundation; The Field Foundation of Illinois; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; Kraft Foods; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The National Endowment for the Arts; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; South East Chicago Commission; and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Gallery 2 & The Cleve E. Carney Gallery  
*CONSTELLATION: A Faculty Show*  
July 7 - September 16, 2007



Elke Claus, *Pink Star*, 2007, collage, 13 x 12 inches

In Astronomy and Astrology, the word "constellation" gives name to the position of planets or stars on the basis of observable proximity. What, though, constitutes this proximity? What unifies one celestial body to another in a constellation? The celestial bodies' proximity to one another does not, in this sense, reference their individual identities but rather their physical closeness while maintaining their fundamental differences.

The 20th century philosopher and sociologist, Theodor Adorno, used the term "constellation" as means to explain the organization not only of the heavens but also of societies. He called the close proximity of inherently different objects a "unity of non-identity." This helps to explain how exceptionally different stars can be grouped in the same constellation, and also how societies and cultures give order to exceptionally different individuals.

Historian and Adorno biographer Martin Jay argues that the constellation signifies "a juxtaposed rather than integrated cluster of changing elements that resist reduction to a common denominator, essential core, or generative first principle."i In this new unity, societies do not emerge from their physical "sameness" but rather from their interplay of concepts and contents — ideas and images. In turn, this interplay affects the entire make-up of societies and their histories including actions and activities, relations and interrelations, as well as exchanges and transformations between individuals and other groups. The result is not just, as the saying goes, "greater than the sum of its parts," but reveals the dialogue between the part(s) and the whole.

The Art Center currently works with over 40 practicing artists who instruct hands-on studio art programs on-site and in our many partner programs. While the many artists whose work is on display in this show are all united by their engagement with the Art Center, their work demonstrates a diverse and important range of media, style, and content. *Constellation* seeks to expose the unity that can be established in and through diversity, in the fullest definition of that term. Recognizing the diversity of media that they engage with and bring to the

Art Center, *Constellation* highlights the manifold skills of our faculty. Their work as practicing artists underscores the quality of visual arts instruction that they provide to over 2,000 students each year. *Constellation* showcases the depth and breadth of style and content of our faculty and includes works in painting, drawing, ceramics, digital and analog photography, printmaking, mixed media and assemblage, sound installation, textiles, and more.

*Constellation* seeks to pose the question: What does the unity of non-identity tell us about the Hyde Park Art Center, the teaching artists who work here, and ourselves as viewers? Each work is conceived and executed independently and individually, each in itself a configuration of concepts and images. At the same time, there exists Adorno's unity of nonidentity: The singularity of each piece is expressed in tension and harmony with others in close proximity to it. For example, by placing *this* work and *this* and *this* work together on the gallery walls, the viewer's perceived expectations of unity are challenged, allowing exploration into a "diverse unity". The Hyde Park Art Center itself is greater than the sum of its parts — its faculty being one of the many components that make the Art Center an innovative arts organization. As a literal "center" for the visual arts, it encourages creative diversity in an attempt to sustain the integral part the visual arts play in the constellations of the South Side of Chicago and beyond.



Installation view

Michelle Beckett  
Curator of *Constellation: A Faculty Show*

i Martin Jay, *Adorno* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984), 14-15.