

Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**  
Gallery 5

November 2, 2008 – February 1, 2009

**About the Artist:**

Artist and teacher Elke Claus has been creating silkscreen prints and etchings in Chicago for over 15 years. She holds an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and B.F.A. from Rutgers University, both with a concentration in printmaking. She has extended her research abroad in printshops in Berlin (Kunstlerhaus Bethanien) and Trier (Academie der Bildene Kunst), Germany. Her artwork has been shown in group exhibitions both locally and internationally. Solo exhibitions of her work have been at institutions in Chicago, including Anchor Graphics and the Contemporary Arts Workshop, as well as the Krasl Art Museum (MI). Currently, Claus teaches printmaking at Columbia College, Lillstreet Art Center, and the Hyde Park Art Center. For more information, visit the artist's website: [www.elkeworks.com](http://www.elkeworks.com).

**Related Events:**

All events are free and open to the public.

**Opening Reception**

Sunday, December 14, 3–5 pm

**Art Thing**

Tuesday, December 2, 4–5 pm

Elke Claus will speak informally about her artwork and answer questions from the public.

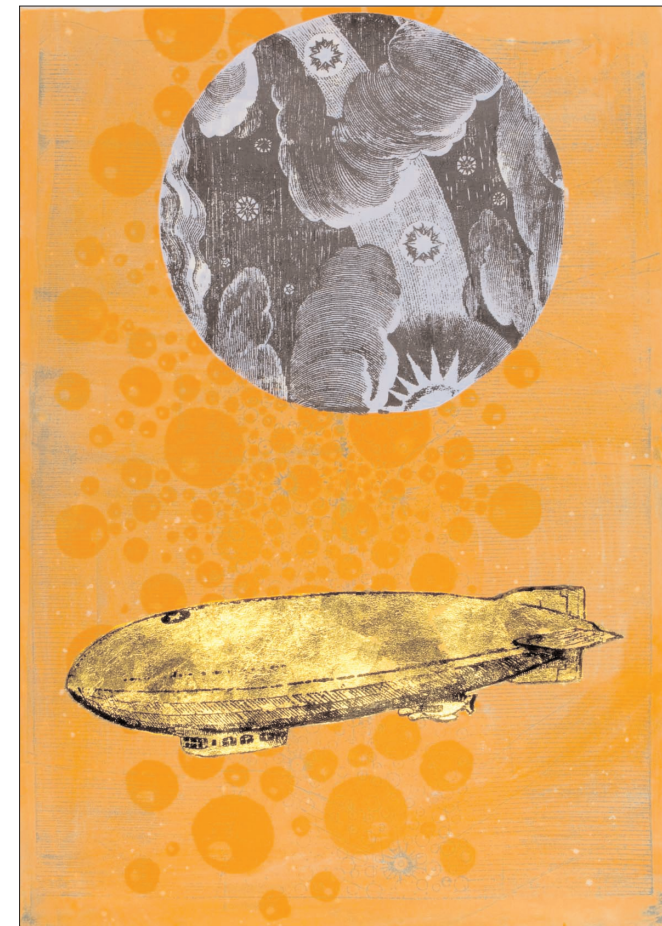
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**Hyde Park ARTCENTER**

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 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.

**Elke Claus:**  
*As Above, So Below*



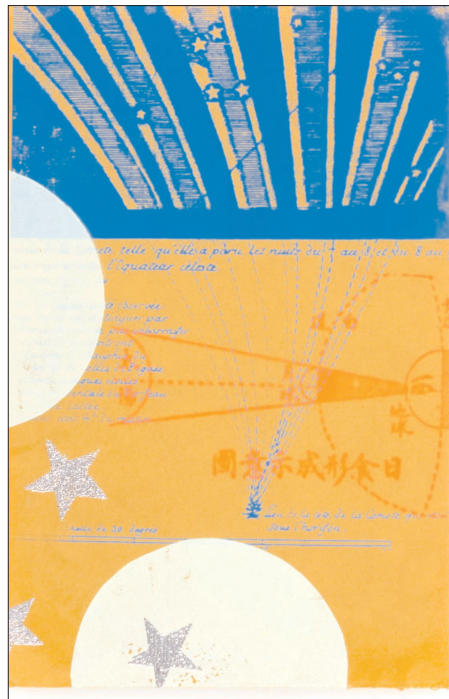
Elke Claus, *Gold Zeppelin*, 2008, Ink on paper, 28 x 20 inches



Elke Claus, *Mystery Woman*

*"This year I have been especially active combining various photomechanical printmaking processes and transferring these onto handmade or found paper. The prints contain images appropriated from science textbooks; mostly illustrations of things that are usually invisible, for example: satellite orbits, sound waves, atomic reactions, etc. These images have been collected and layered to reveal unusual similarities in their patterns and shapes. I choose special papers and translucent, flourescent, or metallic inks in each print. I have manipulated and "collaged" these in order to create a style that mixes mechanical reproduction with a handmade touch and for the hope of blending a space-age style with old-fashioned craftsmanship".*

--Elke Claus, 2008



Elke Claus, *Celeste*

Even though printmaking is an art process that can be traced as far back as 105 A.D in China and became popular in Europe in the 15th century, contemporary artists continue to expand the capabilities of the medium by introducing new technologies and/or chemical solutions into the process. Elke Claus reinvisions the contemporary potential of printmaking by exploring the limits of photomechanical processes and their relationship with diverse materials.

Combining found and photocopied scientific textbook images with various types of inks and papers, Claus creates etchings and silkscreen collages with a sensual and sculptural quality. As Claus meticulously creates layer upon layer, the prints develop an expressive language that speaks both cerebrally and viscerally.



Elke Claus, *Hypnotism*

Through her unique printmaking process, Elke Claus reveals the complex relationship between traditional printmaking and the digital age. Once seen as a mechanized device that freed individuals from the physical labor of printing, the printing press is now looked upon with nostalgia due to its distinctive aesthetic and tactility - qualities that seem absent in the digital age. Overlapping hand produced etchings, found newspapers, and digital reproductions, Claus coalesces the old and new, along with physical and conceptual labor, uncovering likenesses in seemingly disparate processes. In Claus' wistful yet innovative works she calls upon historically vacillating tendencies-the mechanical and the handmade-to reveal the compelling dialogue that occurs when conflating traditional and contemporary techniques.