

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, February 8, 3-5pm

Art Thing

Tuesday, February 3, 4-5pm

The artist will talk informally about his work.

A color catalogue featuring images of the paintings and essays by the curators is available. The catalogue has been made possible through the support of: Rodrigo Avila and Julie Smith, John and Sandy David, Peter and Megene Forker, Carlo and Isabel Georg, Lance Know and Mary Lambert, Elizabeth and Jeff Louis, Janet L. Melk, Tom Melk and Sarah Potter, Dr. Robert Mruphy, Gretchen Pfeutze, Lorenzo Rodriquez and Cristina Revert, the Stefan and Clair Sarles family, John and Marianne Strokirk, Patricia Swanson, and Chuck Thurow.

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 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.

Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**
Gallery 4

January 18, 2009 – April 5, 2009

ABANDONED DEMOLITION
New paintings by Andy Paczos



Fifth Painting: Former Offices Along Ogden Avenue, 2007, Oil on linen, 26x40 inches

Andy Paczos creates art about destruction, loss and abdication in the urban environment, but he simultaneously links into a world of acceptance, serenity, and persistence. Like all great landscape painting, it connects the viewer to a broad range of experiences and emotions based on the physical world that Paczos presents – particularly for anyone who has lived through a significant loss. His work moves beyond loss to something enduring, but neither denies that loss nor rules out future loss. Both of us as curators were immediately struck by the strength and originality of this suite of work and are pleased to be able to present it at the Hyde Park Art Center.

Paczos isolates the viewer in a strange vastness. The familiar city is there but we are looking across a landscape of broken cement and rubble. It is a landscape that evokes feelings or even fear of isolation and abandonment: The city filled with people who may hurt or help us is not in these paintings. The hurt or demolition has already happened. Now we are alone. And we are trespassing in an environment that is tightly fenced off because of unknown threats or risks – the open manhole, the unstable/half demolished wall. In the world we see in the paintings, there is no one to come to our assistance if something happens. Yet Paczos shows us sheer life force in this abandonment; there is quietude in the anxiety.

Paczos is neither nostalgic for a lost industrial environment nor romantic about a return of the natural. Instead he holds both the loss and the new in juxtaposition. We as viewers know that his landscape is temporary and that the new condos or industrial plants that we see at the margins of Paczos’ paintings will eventually fill this space. But that future is irrelevant to Paczos. He paints only what he sees. As with the possum carcass, once it was blown away he simply stopped painting leaving the rest of the canvas blank . He does not add or subtract or rearrange or stylize. It is also our pleasure as viewer: we can concentrate totally on what is now, on looking clearly and carefully, on accepting the world as it is. The sense of care in the process of painting, the luminous and meticulous brush work reinforces this quality. These images are not snapshots.

Change and time enter Paczos’ work as we move from painting to painting. Not only do we get different perspectives of the site, but also the light varies and the seasons pass. Yet always there is a calm and serenity as we stand in the vastness. We know we are involved in the life cycles of a city.



Sixth Painting: Dead Plants--New Growth, 2007/2008, Oil on linen, 27x23 inches

This exhibition is curated by Chuck Thurow and Pat Swanson. Chuck Thurow is Executive Director of the Hyde Park Art Center and Pat Swanson a Board Member from 1998 to 2008. Both have curated numerous exhibitions for the Center both individually and collaboratively.



Twelfth Painting: Second Version Looking Down From Metra Tracks, 2008, Oil on linen, 27x48 inches

List of Works

<i>First Painting: First Version Looking Down from Metra Tracks</i> 2006 Oil on linen 24 x 38 inches	<i>Eighth Painting: Wind Arc</i> 2008 Oil on linen 20 x 23 inches
<i>Second Painting: Partially Filled Basement with Three Broken Columns</i> 2006 Oil on linen 27 x 40 inches	<i>Ninth Painting: Open Conduit with Flowering Weed</i> 2008 Oil on linen 22 x 28 inches
<i>Third Painting: Sarah Identifying Plants Along Foundation</i> 2007 Oil on linen 25 x 37 inches	<i>Tenth Painting: Opossum with Cut "I" Beam</i> 2008 Oil on linen 21 x 29 inches
<i>Fourth Painting: Backside of Condominium Development</i> 2007 Oil on linen 26 x 34 inches	<i>Eleventh Painting: Mountain of Crushed Concrete</i> 2008 Oil on linen 23 x 44 inches
<i>Fifth Painting: Former Offices Along Ogden Avenue</i> 2007 Oil on linen 26 x 40 inches	<i>Twelfth Painting: Second Version Looking Down From Metra Tracks</i> 2008: Oil on linen 27 x 45 inches
<i>Sixth Painting: Dead Plants / New Growth</i> 2007/2008 Oil on linen 27 x 23 inches	<i>Last Painting: Outside Property Along Elston Avenue</i> 2008 Oil on linen 25 x 48 inches
<i>Seventh Painting: Kenny Construction Replacing Sewer Pipe Along Elson Avenue</i> 2007/2008 Oil on linen 25 x 34 inches	