



About the Artist:

Stephen Reber (b. 1958) lives and works in Chicago, where he has been a faculty member at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago since 1998. He received his MFA from The Maryland Institute college of Art and a BS from Nazareth College of Rochester. His work has been exhibited at numerous Chicago venues, and institutions including the Chicago Cultural Center, Three

Walls, Sullivan Galleries SAIC, and the Illinois State Museum. His work was recently included in the Dock 6 Design and Art series, and in 2016 he presented a solo exhibition at Devening Projects. Earlier this year, his work was exhibited at Hobart and William Smith College Solarium Gallery, Geneva, NY. He was the recipient of an Artadia grant in 2006 and Illinois Arts Council grants in 2006 and 2000.

Related Events

Public Reception

Sunday, March 31, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy all four new exhibitions at Hyde Park Art Center. Refreshments will be served and park free at Kenwood High School.

Many of the artworks on view are available for purchase through the Hyde Park Art Center. Pricelists are located in a binder at the front desk. If interested, contact exhibitions@hydeparkart.org.

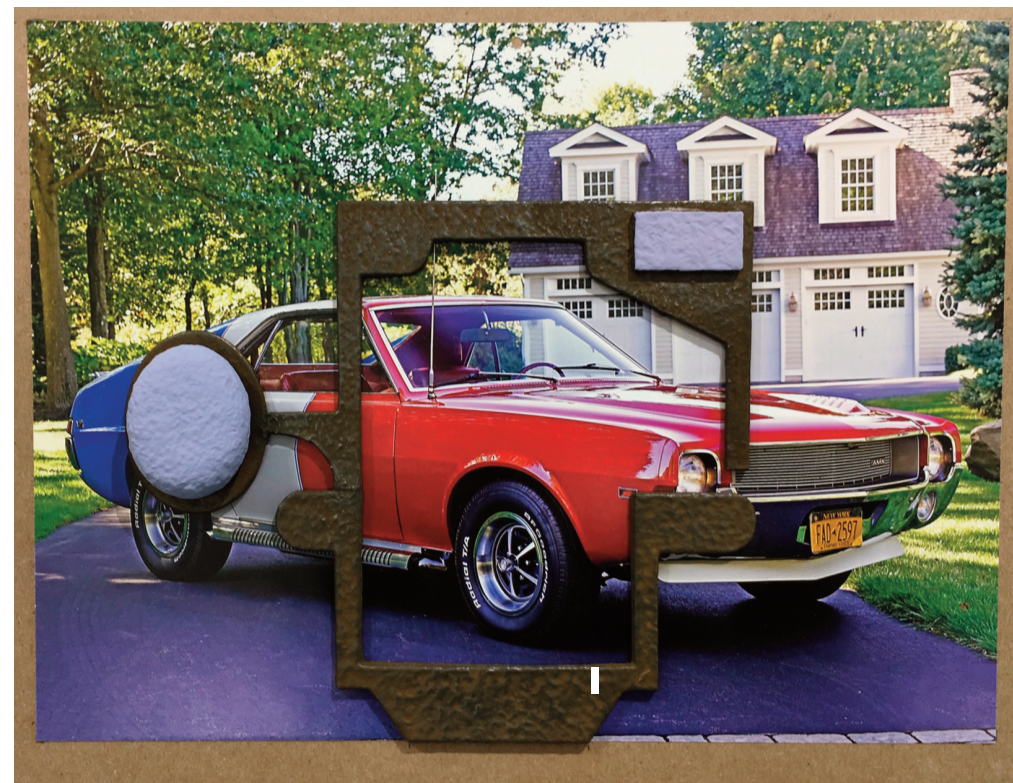
Hyde Park **ART** CENTER

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

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Steve Reber *Anemic Compass*

Kanter McCormick Gallery
March 10 - June 16, 2019



Steve Reber, 1 *Calendar*, 2019, Photograph, wood, aqua resin, paint, 12 x 16 inches

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Steve Reber, *Forge/ Finding the sun*, 2019, Wood, plaster, aqua resin, cardboard, black cord, paint, iron surfer, 45 x 60 x 60 inches

Anemic Compass introduces a new body of work in which Steve Reber considers the high-performance vehicle as a multi-layered point of departure for examining American culture. In this work, youth, optimism and vulnerability are examined through the lens of family and personal histories. Constructing simulated surfaces and forms, Reber destabilizes our perception by suggesting things related to the home and garage - a carport, a drillpress, automobiles - that are not always as they appear. In doing so, Reber highlights the importance of seeing beyond the surface of objects.

The exhibition features the large sculpture *Auto Mending*, a full-scale model of an automobile that is stripped down and modified. The bulk of the vehicle is absent, while the open structure of the work carries the footprint of factory standardization. The sculpture's dimensions and cast tires give the viewer clues as to its origins, yet Reber deviates and injects elements such as printed fabric, window screening, and denim, which weaves domestic concepts.

In his work *1 Calendar*, Reber appropriates Muscle car images from calendar pin-ups and attaches sculptural elements onto the image. Reminiscent of mechanical parts, architectural forms or diagrams, these abstract additions modify the automobile's relationship to desire, appearance, and autonomy. Representing an entire calendar year, *1 Calendar* measures time cycles and circularity. In Reber's in-site vinyl wall drawing, *Port*, an illusionistic domestic carport is created on the gallery wall. For Reber, the carport becomes a space for harboring objects and cultural memory.

Reber's free-standing sculptures incorporate a bricolage of familiar shapes where a functional potential or use is suggested through the simulated form and surface. Cast and fabricated forms share a machine-like quality and allude to a location and ideology of a former era. These works also examine the American identity of production, progress, and innovation. As Reber explains, "the title 'Anemic Compass' implies a break in navigation, getting lost, and using the vaguely familiar for guidance." And sometimes the best paths are found from losing one's way.

Audrey Moyer
Curational Fellow
Hyde Park Art Center



Steve Reber, *Facsimile / Fade to white*, 2018
Wood, polystyrene, plaster, aqua resin, cardboard, paint, 70 x 60 x 36 inches