What is the purpose of art to you? What, if anything, should it say? The great thing about creative expression is that it fills different needs for different people. Through the artists learning, working, teaching, and exhibiting at the Art Center, we are reminded that the power of art lies in its ability to be whatever we need it to be; to offer us possibility.

This fall, we welcome into the Jackman Goldwasser Residency the Belarusian artist Rufina Bazlova, whose quiltmaking and embroidery practice intersects with political activism, literally weaving together material and meaning. This summer, printmaker and community activist William Estrada sets up shop in our Kanter Family Foundation Gallery, displaying a decades-long practice that evidences the power of art to transform our neighborhoods. For William and Rufina, art allows them to address the world and create change. At the same time, when interviewed in the pages of this newsletter, Julian Williams points to a move away from overtly political art toward a quieter, perhaps more meditative, practice that focuses on “the mundane… simple ordinary things” like the way light touches the surface of an object. For Julian, a longtime Art Center teaching artist and watercolorist, art is a chance to observe the world more deeply, and allow it to change him.

What does art do for you? Whatever your reasons, there’s space for both and more in art.

Letter from the Co-Executive Directors

Jen Tremblay Chambers & Aaron Rodgers
Co-Executive Directors
Hyde Park Art Center

Exhibitions

William Estrada: Multiples and Multitudes
Kanter Family Foundation Gallery
July 22–October 29

**Multiples and Multitudes** is the first solo exhibition of Chicago-based Mexican-American artist and educator William Estrada whose socially engaged practice has been rooted in neighborhoods for the last twenty years. Works in print, photography, performance, and video developed during the artist’s participation in the 2021 Jackman Goldwasser Residency at the Art Center will be presented to highlight Estrada’s unwavering commitment to political activism through art. The exhibition is curated by Mariela Acuña, Residency and Exhibitions Manager, in collaboration with the artist.


A Universe of Self-Experience
Gallery 5
July 22–October 15

The annual exhibition celebrates new work by young artists participating in Hyde Park Art Center’s Teen Programs. Titled *A Universe of Self-Experience* by the Youth Board of Artists, the exhibition audaciously recognizes the boundlessness and complexity within the time in which these young artists exist. Through a diverse range of media and styles, more than forty artists investigate the intertwined vastness and intimate side of self-experience. This exhibition is curated by Alex Herrera, Teen Programs Manager, and Tran Tran, Exhibitions and Residency Coordinator.


Marian Carow: Salvages
Gallery 1, 2, and Gallery 5
October 28, 2023 - February 18, 2024

What are the true surfaces of an object? Artist Marian Carow considers this philosophical perspective and other formal concerns in her solo exhibition of new sculptural work rendered in painted corrugated cardboard, through which Carow explores minimal forms referencing architecture as well as the constant flux and impermanence of our built urban environment. Carow is an alumna of Hyde Park Art Center’s Bridge Program (Spring 2015) and Center Program (2016).

Below, Left: Marian Carow, Untitled (201003), 2020, Corrugated cardboard and acrylic, 14 x 11 x 6.5 inches. Below, Right: Candace Hunter, detail of The Living Ship from Xenogenesis.

The Alien-Nations and Sovereign States of Octavia E. Butler by Candace Hunter
Kanter Family Foundation Gallery

Inspired by the books of speculative fiction author Octavia E. Butler, artist Candace Hunter introduces an exploratory installation of video, sound work, collage, and sculpture to imagine the future of human resilience in the wake of racial reckoning, climate change, and food scarcity. The exhibition features all new work made on-site in the Guida Family Creative Wing studios in 2022–2023 with the curation of Ciera McKissick, Public Programs Manager and Allison Peters Quinn, Director of Exhibitions and Residency. According to Hunter, the immersive installation “gives room to examine the idea of who is other, in what situation do we see people as other to ourselves? And how do we become universal?”


Gallery materials for the following exhibitions are presented in both English and Spanish.
PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK.
Since 2021 as a part of Stitchit art group, I have been working on a socially engaged art project Framed in Belarus, that is dedicated to political prisoners in Belarus (more than 1500 people to date). The goal of the project is to depict every person who was unjustly convicted by creating their portraits with a short story of their detention using the old traditional Belarusian technique of white-red stitching. The project invites people to embroider these portraits and become part of the growing solidarity community. The project’s final form will be a monumental collective quilt.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO EXPLORING WHILE IN RESIDENCY IN CHICAGO?
I will continue to spread the word about the Belarusian political situation. Through presentations and workshops, I aim to involve new people into the project—artists, activists, students, people from Belarus and other diasporas, embroidery and craft enthusiasts, and other interested people.

WHAT CONNECTIONS ARE YOU HOPING TO MAKE WITH THE ART CENTER’S COMMUNITY DURING YOUR TIME HERE?
While visiting the United States for the first time, I look forward to exploring Chicago’s dynamic art scene, visiting museums and galleries. Additionally, I hope to delve deeper into the rich quilting tradition in Chicago while also exchanging knowledge with like-minded artists and curators who are likewise committed to community-oriented and socially-politically engaged art projects. I harbor the hope of forging meaningful collaborations with art institutions that could potentially pave the way for future presentations of my artwork in the United States.

The Jackman Goldwasser Residency receives generous support from:
CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE AS A TEACHING ARTIST?
I am a printmaking teaching artist at Hyde Park Art Center, and am part of a collective called Marimacha Moncarca Press, a queer and trans artist of color collective based in McKinley Park. I’m a zinemaker, plant maker, pie maker, and I work in the gardens.

I became a teaching artist over ten years ago, specifically with printmaking. I was interested in making the arts accessible to the different communities that I was a part of. Being bilingual in English and Spanish, I work with queer and trans youth of color and folks from immigrant communities. Growing up, I didn’t have access to the arts, so for me, teaching art has always been important to increase access. Art is a way to show care for my homies, my community, and share and exchange the different knowledge that we hold. Being a teaching artist for me is about offering what I have and also welcoming feedback by learning about what other people know on the topic. I never feel like an expert in a field; I am curious and want to be curious with other people. That’s what drives my teaching artist work.

HOW HAS BEING A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?
I feel a lot more connected to being a teaching artist now. Working at Hyde Park Art Center influenced that, in addition to working in my community, especially through Mari Press. I came to the Art Center in the nineties. I had just recently graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and I knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I felt that Hyde Park Art Center would be fertile ground for me to learn how to be a teacher. I came for the experience initially, and then started meeting people and enjoyed the atmosphere. I’ve been here pretty much ever since.

WHY DO YOU COME TO HYDE PARK ART CENTER?
Hyde Park Art Center is a very energetic and experimental place where you can find all kinds of people from all walks of life. It’s a place people really should check out because there’s all kinds of things going on, and nothing is crazy up there as far as creativity is concerned. You can try just about anything. The staff and the faculty give you a platform to do what you want to do.

Sarita Hernandez (they/them)
Open Arts Teaching Artist
Printmaker

Meet Our Teaching Artists

Julian Williams (he/him)
Open Arts Teaching Artist
Watercolorist

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE AS A TEACHING ARTIST?
My practice as a teaching artist is about sharing who I am as a painter. I try not to get into too many political things right now, however I used to do that kind of stuff, but there are enough people out there doing that right now. I’m pretty much interested in the mundane; just simple, ordinary things. How the light is sitting on a couch, tabletop, or something like that. If anybody’s interested in doing that, I can certainly show them how to do it.

I’m kind of quiet, but at the same time trying to be out there enough to take in what’s going on. I spend my time making work and trying to get better and better. I’ve been doing this thing for many years and I always see areas of improvement. I get inspired, especially from my students. A couple of my students today inspired me with some landscapes that they did. And I thought “wow, that’s wonderful I’m gonna use that in my studio tonight!”

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE ART CENTER?
I came to the Art Center in the nineties. I had just recently graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and I knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I felt that Hyde Park Art Center would be fertile ground for me to learn how to be a teacher. I came for the experience initially, and then started meeting people and enjoyed the atmosphere. I’ve been here pretty much ever since.

Support Open Arts!

Visit our YouTube channel for full interviews!
Join us at Hyde Park Art Center’s 2023 Gala
Friday, November 17 at the Art Center

Cocktails + Hors d’oeuvres
5:30pm
7pm
Dinner + Main Program
8:30–11:30pm

Join hundreds of artists, civic and business leaders, and creatives of all types for an unforgettable evening to support and celebrate the work of Hyde Park Art Center! The 2023 Gala will offer guests insider access to artists’ studios and their practices, as well as specially commissioned artist interventions.

After dinner, we’ll dance the night away at the After Party, featuring interactive art experiences, music, late-night snacks, and more. Guests may purchase tickets for the entire evening, including the dinner and all the festivities, or just for the After Party.

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tickets

Host Committee Sponsorships
$2,500-$40,000
Individual Tickets
$750
After Party Tickets
$75

For more information, or to purchase tickets or make a donation, visit hydeparkart.org/gala or contact Marina Vulinovic at mvulinovic@hydeparkart.org

After dinner, we’ll dance the night away at the After Party, featuring interactive art experiences, music, late-night snacks, and more. Guests may purchase tickets for the entire evening, including the dinner and all the festivities, or just for the After Party.

It’s Time to Celebrate!
Contribute online at hydeparkart.org/contribute

Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

I am interested in leaving a lasting legacy of supporting Chicago’s art and artists in my will.
Please send me more information.

I’d like to support the Art Center all year long by making a monthly gift of:

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$250
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