

# Galleries & Museums

## Now Showing

### A Real Looker

**L**aura Mackin's show at Contemporary Art Workshop is based on "imagery from strangers," she says. "When you find someone's videos or pictures, they seem mysterious at first, and then you wind up imagining the intentions of the people who made them." The origin of this exhibit is a home video she bought at a thrift store while she was an undergrad at the Maryland Institute College of Art. "Rabbits, squirrels, cartoons, etc." was scribbled on the box, and the time-stamping indicated the video had been taken over a 12-day period in 1992. The videographer panned animals in a backyard frenetically; these segments are interspersed with brief interludes, some showing cartoons on TV and others the anonymous video maker himself. She and her friends loved it. "We all thought it was his first day with the camera, his first video—it had that intensity of looking, that pleasure," she says. "He'll be hyperfocused on a particular animal, then cut to something else. He can't seem to hold the camera straight he's so excited."

Mackin returned to the video in 2005, three years after she bought it and shortly after receiving her MFA from the School of the Art Institute, making drawings from it. Then she copied the video's entire 90 minutes into her computer and began stitching together individual frames—10 to 100 at a time—to create her own "stills." Five of these are on display, plus the whole video on one monitor and an extracted three-minute loop of the video maker on another. Her panoramic composite images show the backyard or branches silhouetted against the sky. The allover textures produced by Mackin's technique create weird

landscapes that are even more mysterious than the original video, heightening its fleeting beauty while underlining its inexplicability. Mackin, who says she tends to be secretive, has been fascinated by anonymity for a while, even though her art-school projects included painting herself, her mother, and her

boyfriend, now her husband. "My autobiographical work didn't actually show very much," she says. When she was an undergraduate, a professor prodded his students to become more original by assuming personas, thinking it might distract them from just painting. But Mackin chose to be a workaday artist painting animal portraits for a living. (The instructor was "kind of pissed off," she says.) In general she disliked the art world's quest for newness: "Students talked of trying to conceive of something they hadn't seen before, but the results rarely seemed original." In response she began collecting images from eBay. "I liked that they were trying to show objects for sale in the best way that they could," she says, even when the seller's home was obviously a mess. She became fascinated by the images of mirrors for sale because they showed both the room around the mirror and whatever was reflected in it, yet the spaces remained puzzling. She printed such images in two artist's books, the second of which, *Old Mirror Auctions L@@K*, is also in this show along with five individual prints of mirrors. Some reveal rooms, others landscapes; one reflects a gravestone, and others faces, a cat, or nude bodies.

Mackin is drawn to puzzles—but not so much to solving them. When she was in her midteens, her parents suspected that her older sister's boyfriend



Laura Mackin with the "stills" she made; one of the mirror photos she collected off eBay

was living in the woods behind their house. Mackin and her father would take long walks, looking for his hideout, peering into a nearby mulch factory and farmers' sheds. But they never talked about the boyfriend or where he might be; instead Mackin's

dad would identify trees for her or explain what a particular building or implement was used for. As in her current show, the simple act of looking was more important than achieving complete understanding. —Fred Camper

6/28. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 6-10 PM. Tue-Sat 11-6. 312-421-8990

**NAB** 1117 W. Lake. Craig Anderson, Sally Havlis, paintings, through Sat 6/17. Sat noon-5. 312-738-1620

**Ann Nathan** 212 W. Superior. Ahzad Bogosian, Deborah Ebbers, landscape paintings, through Sat 7/8. Tue-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-5. 312-664-6622

**Navta Schulz** 1039 W. Lake. Jason Hackenwerth, inflatable sculpture, through Sat 7/8. **E** Opens Sat 6/10, 6-9 PM. . . . Ben Potter, collages, through Sat 7/22. Tue-Sat noon-6. 312-421-5506

**One Fine Art** 209 W. Huron. Mike Elsass, paintings, through Sat 7/1. Tue-Fri 10-6, Sat 11-6. 312-654-8004

**Joel Oppenheimer** 410 N. Michigan. Hand-colored engravings from Basilius Besler's 1613 botanical encyclopedia *Hortus Eystettensis*, through Sun 6/18. Mon-Sat 10-6. 312-642-5300

**Aron Packer** 118 N. Peoria. Eleanor Spiess-Ferris, paintings; "Sticky," photos of women covered in food by Robin Assner, including "Marshmallow Fluff [because it] helps create the union between the natural and the inert"; Jerry Bleem, "stapled sculpture, stamp collage, insect wings mounted on glass," and other work, through Sat 7/8. Tue-Sat 11-5:30. 312-226-8984

**Parts Unknown** 645 W. 18th. Robert Treece, paintings, through Sat 7/8. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 6-10 PM. Sat noon-5. 312-492-9058

**Perimeter** 210 W. Superior. Mary Walker, paintings; James Smith, installation, through Sat 7/8. Tue-Sat 10:30-5:30. 312-266-9473

**Polvo** 1458 W. 18th #1R. Mirtes Zwierzynski, works on paper; Rebecca Wolfram, installation inspired by "Delgadina," a song that, in turn, is based on the tragic character from a traditional Spanish ballad, through Sat 6/17. **E** Cybernetics researcher Xabier Barandiaran discusses "Hackmeeting and Hacklabs: Technopolitics and Reality Hacking in South-European Autonomous Networks," Mon 6/12, 7-9 PM. Sat noon-5. 773-344-1940

**Printworks** 311 W. Superior #105. Norbert J. Freese, works on paper, through Sat 7/8. Tue-Sat 11-5. 312-664-9407

**Prism** 1048 W. Fulton. Kimberly Haugh, Joseph Hobbs, Robert Mickelsen, Jeffrey Sarmiento, Jeffrey Wallin, figurative glass works, through Sat 7/29. Tue-Sat 10-6. 312-243-4885

**Thomas Robertello** 939 W. Randolph. The gallery debuts with work by 14 artists, through Sat 6/10. **E** Reception Sat 6/10, 11 AM-6 PM. Fri 10-6, Sat 11-6. 312-421-1587

**Byron Roche** 750 N. Franklin. Margaret Evangeline, paintings made by "dancing" in stiletto-heeled shoes on acrylic-coated foam-board panels, through Sat 7/8. Tue-Sat 11-6. 312-654-0144

**Rotofugi** 1953 W. Chicago. Hand-painted vinyl toy-bear "blanks," by Chris Uphues, Ken Watanabe, Krista Peel, and some three dozen other area artists, through Sun 7/23. Tue-Sat noon-8, Sun noon-5. 312-491-9501

**Rowland Contemporary** 1118 W. Fulton. Work by recent and current Northwestern University grads, through Sat 7/8. Sat 11-5. 312-421-6275

**Schneider** 230 W. Superior. "Still Lovers," photos of silicone sex dolls and their owner-partners by Elena Dorfman; John Dowell, city photos, through Fri 7/7. Tue-Fri 10:30-5, Sat 11-5. 312-988-4033

**Schopf** 942 W. Lake. Barry Anderson, installation; Steve Hamann, paintings, through Fri 6/30. Tue-Sat 11-5. 312-432-1630

**Carrie Secrist** 835 W. Washington. Work by gallery artists, through Sat 7/8. Tue-Fri 10:30-5:30, Sat 11-5. 312-491-0917

**Steelelife** 4655 S. King, 2nd fl. "Heroes," acrylic paintings of Huey P. Newton, Rosa Parks, John Coltrane, Malcolm X, Stevie Wonder, and others, through Fri 6/30. Tue-Sat 11-5:30, Sun noon-5. 773-538-4773

Fashion, Architecture," exhibit on the half-century-old Finnish design company, Sat 6/10-Fri 7/28. Tue-Sat 10-4. 312-567-5014

**Intuit** 756 N. Milwaukee. "Revelation!," embroidered and appliqued quilts by Marie "Big Mama" Roseman (1898-2004), some incorporating plastic flowers and lace, through Sat 9/2. Tue-Sat 11-5, Thu till 7:30. 312-243-9088

**Irish American Heritage Center** 4626 N. Knox. "Green Groves of Erin," paintings and drawings by Alice McMahon White, Thu 6/15-Sun 7/9. Sat-Sun 1-5. 773-282-7035, ext. 10

**Gwenda Jay/Addington** 704 N. Wells. Robin Denevan, encaustic landscape paintings; Joyce Polance, encaustic figurative paintings, through Wed 7/12. Tue-Sat 11-6. 312-664-3406

**Johnsonese** 2149 W. Armitage. Elizabeth Tyson, Kariann Fuqua, paintings; Thomas

Schmidt, ceramics, Sat 6/10-Fri 7/28. **E** Opens Sat 6/10, 7-9 PM. Wed-Sat 11-6. 773-252-8750

**Peter Jones** 1806 W. Cuyler. Work by Alan Emerson Hicks, through Sun 6/25. **E** La Casa Norte, a not-for-profit support agency for homeless youth and families, holds a fund-raising auction of paintings and photographs by area artists Sat 6/10, 5-8 PM; \$20 suggested donation. Sat-Sun 3-6. 773-472-6725

**Stephen Kelly** 750 N. Franklin #101. Kim Frieders, paintings, through Fri 7/7. Tue-Sat 11-6. 312-867-1921

**Kristoffer's Cafe** 1733 S. Halsted. Robin Monique Rios, digital photography; Magdalena Lis, drawings and paintings, through Wed 7/5. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 6-9 PM. Mon-Fri 8 AM-9 PM, Sat-Sun 9-5. 312-829-4150

**David Leonardis** 1346 N. Paulina. Paintings, photography, prints, and other work by gallery artists, through Wed 7/12. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 6 PM-midnight. Tue-Sat noon-5. 773-278-3058

**Llorona** 1474 W. Webster. Nicolas De Jesus, prints and drawings, through Fri 7/7. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 6-11 PM. Tue-Fri 10:30-5:30. 773-281-8460

**Lydon** 309 W. Superior. Stephen Dinsmore, paintings, through Fri 7/7. Mon 9-noon, Tue-Sun 9-5. 312-943-1133

**Marx Saunders** 230 W. Superior. Janusz Walentyowicz, cast glass and steel sculptures, often painted, through Fri 6/30. Tue-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-5. 312-573-1400

**Thomas Masters** 245 W. North. Melody Saraniti, drawings and oil paintings, through Wed 6/21. Wed-Sun noon-6. 312-440-2322

**Monique Meloche** 118 N. Peoria. "Bring It On!," videos, photography, and other work with a cheerleading theme by Brock Enright, Brian Finke, Luis Gispert, Cassandra C. Jones, and others, through Sat 7/29. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 6-9 PM. Tue-Sat 11-6. 312-455-0299

**Mess Hall** 6932 N. Glenwood. "Contested Chicago: Pilsen and Gentrification," exhibit of maps, photographs, and information panels, organized by students in DePaul University's geography department, through Sun 6/25. **E** Panel discussion on TIFs and urban development, Fri 6/9, 7:30 PM. Sat noon-5. 773-465-4033

**Peter Miller** 118 N. Peoria. "The Shape of Things," cut-paper pieces; Sanford Field, paintings and drawings, through Sat 7/8. **E** Opens Fri 6/9, 5-8 PM. Tue-Sat 10-5:30. 312-951-1700

**Moka** 1825 S. Halsted. Aisen Chacin, paintings, prints, and sculpture, through Wed



**AFM-63-Composition**, painted paper sculpture, by Craig Anderson, on view at NAB

**Three Seasons** 648 W. Randolph. Work by Alice McGorty, Lee Lee Chan, You-Ni Chae, Gabriel Garcia, HoJung Jun, and Christina Sugang, through Mon 6/12. 📍 Opens Fri 6/9, 6-10 PM. Mon 11-6. 312-285-4533

**Vespine** 1907 S. Halsted. Cecil McDonald, photography, through Sat 6/24. 📍 Reception Fri 6/9, 7-10 PM. Fri 4-9, Sat 10-4. 312-962-5850

**Vonzweck** 1626 N. Humboldt. Japeth Mennes, "vivid, colorful and mildly psychedelic abstract" sculpture and drawings, through Thu 6/29. Thu 6-9. 773-208-7222

**Wag** 2121 W. Division. Paintings, sculpture, jewelry, and other work by Linda Wade, Jack and Alice McLean, Paul Rung, and others, through Sun 7/30. 📍 Opens Fri 6/9, 6-9 PM. Thu 4-7, Fri 2-7, Sat 11-6, Sun noon-5. 773-772-2922

**Walsh** 118 N. Peoria. Zhang Dali, rephotographed "doctored photos" from a collection of Chinese documents, through Sat 7/15. 📍 Opens Fri 6/9, 5-9 PM. Tue-Sat 10:30-5:30. 312-829-3312

**Linda Warren** 1052 W. Fulton. Lora Fosberg, collages of drawings and texts

from her journals on stretched silk, through Fri 6/30. Tue-Sat 11-5. 312-432-9500

**Western Exhibitions** 1648 W. Kinzie, 2nd fl. Eric Lebofsky, paintings and drawings; Josh Mannis, videos and collages; work by William J. O'Brien, through Sat 7/15. 📍 Opens Sat 6/10, 6-9 PM. Wed-Sat noon-6. 312-307-4685

**Wizard Island** 225 N. Racine, 4th fl. Ben Driggs, Alee Peoples, and Miklos Simon, collages and sculpture that "revolve around consumerism, personal identity

and tragic beauty," through Sat 6/17. Sat noon-4. 312-437-2283.

**Zg** 300 W. Superior. "Deerpath, My Dear," works on paper by Regin Igloria that reflect the artist's interest in observing nature through "the mindset of the consumer," through Sat 7/8. 📍 Opens Fri 6/9, 5:30-8 PM. Tue-Sat 10-5:30. 312-654-9900

#### Suburban

**Art Gecko** 19 Harrison, Oak Park. Work by Lisa Nordstrom, William Alexander, Elizabeth

Granton, and others, through Sun 7/9. Thu-Fri 1-6, Sat-Sun noon-5. 708-358-1950

**College of DuPage Gahlberg Gallery** McAninch Arts Center, Park & Fawell, Glen Ellyn. "Department of Rhythmanalysis," Kevin Hamilton installs a "system for the control and surveillance of remote and local rhythms," in the gallery, through Sat 8/5. Mon-Thu 11-3 (also Thu 6-8), Sat 11-3. 630-942-2321

**Evanston Art Center** 2603 Sheridan, Evanston. "Evanston + Vicinity Biennial," juried show of work by some three-dozen local artists, through Sun 7/9. *Calm Before the Storm*, outdoor sculpture by Micki LeMieux of "oversized protean organisms," through April 2007. Mon-Thu 10-10, Fri-Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4. 847-475-5300

**Gallery Mornea** 602 Davis, Evanston. Prints by Bert Menco, Paula Campbell, Janet Lefley, and Elizabeth Ockwell; lithographs by Diane Thodos, through Sun 7/2. Tue-Wed noon-6, Thu-Fri 11-9, Sat-Sun 1-5. 847-864-1906

**Gillock** 1402 fi Greenleaf, Evanston. Grace Cole, portrait drawings, through Fri 6/30. 📍 Reception Sat 6/10, 6-8 PM. Sat noon-5. 847-864-3799

**Harrison Works** 17 Harrison, Oak Park. Annual group show of "art of and about baseball," through Sun 8/27. Thu-Fri 1-6, Sat-Sun noon-6. 708-807-0133

**Hinsdale Center for the Arts** 5903 S. County Line. Collage work by Mark Arctander, Fred Cray, Sandra Dawson, Diana Guerrero-Macia, Luis Gonzalez-Palma, Barbara Schnell, Allen Stringfellow, Andrew Young, and Mary Lou Zelazny, through Sat 8/12. 📍 Opens Sat 6/10, 6-8 PM. Mon-Fri 9-7, Sat 9-4. 630-887-0203

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# Wells Street Art Festival

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On Wells Street from North Avenue  
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Live Music Stage • Noon – 10pm



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