

**Readings & Lectures listings are compiled by Jerome Ludwig from information available a week before publication. Admission is free unless otherwise noted. See Theater & Performance listings in this section for open mikes, poetry slams, and spoken-word events.**

**Listings are compiled by Joel Score and Tamara Faulkner from information available Monday. For additional listings see [www.chicagoreader.com](http://www.chicagoreader.com). Hours and closing dates are prone to change; readers are urged to call ahead. Many museums have ongoing exhibits not detailed here, and gal-**

**eries commonly have work by numerous artists on their rosters available for viewing. Some museums offer discounted admission for Chicago residents. Please send exhibit info and images to Art Listings, Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611, or [artlistings@chicagoreader.com](mailto:artlistings@chicagoreader.com).**

**Gescheidle** 118 N. Peoria, 4th fl. "La Frontera," group show; Patrick Welch, "miniature hate paintings and mini-insult blocks," through Sat 1/14. Tue-Sat 11-6. Closed Sat 12/31. 312-226-3500

**Giola** 118 N. Peoria, 4th fl. "No Place Like Home," work by Louisiana artists, through Sat 12/31. Jon Lowenstein, photos of south-side Grand Crossing, through Fri 1/13. Tue-Sat 10-5:30. Closed through Mon 1/2. 312-850-4487

**Graham Foundation** 4 W. Burton. "Visionary Chicago Architecture," designs by 14 local architecture firms asked for "visual concepts for seven gateways to Chicago," through Thu 1/5. Mon-Thu 10-4. 312-787-4071

**Richard Gray** 875 N. Michigan #2503. Paintings by Willem De Kooning, Suzanne Caporeal, and others, Mon 1/2-Fri 2/3. Mon-Fri 10-5:30. 312-642-8877

**Kavi Gupta** 835 W. Washington. Ashley Macomber, paintings; "India: Two Views," work by Danica Phelps and Debi Ray-Chaudhuri, through Sat 1/28. Tue-Fri 10-6, Sat 11-5. Closed through Sat 12/31. 312-432-0708

**Carl Hammer** 740 N. Wells. "The Apollo Prophecies," 10-inch-by-48-foot photo-montage by Nicholas Kahn and Richard Selesnick, through Fri 12/30. Tue-Sat 11-5. 312-266-8512

**Heaven** 1550 N. Milwaukee, 2nd fl. Scott Nedrelew, photos of "organic textures"; Roseann Vitale, installation, through Sat 1/21. Sat 1-5. Closed Sat 12/31. 773-342-4597

**High Risk** 1113 W. Belmont. "My Favorite Things," group show, through Thu 1/26. Wed-Fri 4-8, Sat 1-8, Sun 1-6. Closed Sun 1/1. 773-296-6974

**Hyde Park Arts Center** 5307 S. Hyde Park. James Garrett Faulkner, collages, through Sun 1/8. Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat-Sun noon-5. Closed through Mon 1/2. 773-324-5520

**I Space** 230 W. Superior, 2nd fl. "Prisoners' Inventions," re-creation by Temporary Services of a cell and of objects crafted by prisoners, with drawings illustrating and explaining the inventions by incarcerated artist Angelo, through Sat 1/28. Tue-Sat 11-5. Sat 12/31, 11-3. 312-587-9976

**Illinois Institute of Art** 350 N. Orleans. Carrie Notari, photos, through Wed 1/11. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5. 312-280-3500

**Illinois Institute of Art** 180 N. Wabash. Andrew Conklin, paintings, through Fri 1/13. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5. 773-508-0400

**Illinois Institute of Technology Kemper Room** Galvin Library, 35 W. 33rd, 2nd fl. Roland Kulla, paintings, through Sat 1/21. Mon-Thu noon-10, Fri noon-5, Sat 8:30-5, Sun 2-10. Closed through Mon 1/2. 312-567-5293

**Inspire** 435 E. Illinois. Group photo show, through Sat 12/31. Wed-Sat 11-6, Sun noon-5. Sat 12/31, 11-3. 312-595-9475

**Instituto Cervantes** 875 N. Michigan #2940. Enrique Romero Santana, paintings, through Wed 1/11. Mon-Thu 9-7:30, Fri 9-5, Sat 9-1. Closed Sat-Mon 12/31-1/2. 312-335-1996

**Intuit** 756 N. Milwaukee. "Singular Visions," work from the Anthony Petullo art brut collection, through Fri 12/30. Wed-Sat noon-5. 312-243-9088

**Kamp** 140 E. Walton. Constantin Kluge, Arsene Henri, paintings, through Fri 1/6. Tue-Sat 11-6. Closed Sat 12/31. 312-664-0090

**Stephen Kelly** 750 N. Franklin. Lisa Kaplan, Stephen Kelly, Michael Hoffman, paintings, through Sat 1/28. Tue-Sat 11-6. 312-867-1921

**Alan Koppel** 210 W. Chicago. Larry Bell, sculpture, through Fri 1/27. Mon-Fri 10-5:30, Thu till 6; Sat 11-5:30. Closed through Mon 1/2. 312-640-0730

**Kristoffer's Cafe** 1733 S. Halsted. Work by Kimberly Darovec, through Mon 1/9. Mon-

## Now Showing

# Nature, Remystified

**S**hona Macdonald's abstracted landscapes at the Chicago Cultural Center are precisely detailed and otherworldly. Each of the more than 100 shapes in *Isles #1* looks like a different protozoan, and variable shadings add to their strangeness. The forms in *Mountains, Craters, Shells* seem to rise together out of emptiness: as if in an alchemical reaction, small creates large. From an early age Macdonald thought of nature as enchanted. Born in the Scottish city of Aberdeen, she often visited her grandfather on his small farm, where he kept bees and chickens, living in a stone cottage he'd built on land overlooking Loch Ness. "It was a magical storybook world," she says. "And he was incredibly gentle and sweet to us. But I found him kind of scary, a wild uncivilized country guy." By elementary school, Macdonald was painting detailed foliage for a school mural. And by her early teens she was bicycling into the countryside to sketch realistic landscapes.

*Isles #1* (1998) was inspired by a retired architect's book of aerial sketches of 166 islands off Scotland's west coast, some of which Macdonald had visited. In the Outer Hebrides, she says, "there are no trees, it's just rock everywhere—houses built on rocks. I felt like I was looking much more attentively at everything—the colors, the rocks." She loved the book's drawing style, which recalled medieval maps, and began sketching the islands from a topographic map. But before that, her experiences at three different art schools over seven years interrupted her natural inclination to depict the land. She reacted to the Glasgow School of Art, which was largely devoted to figurative work, by doing what she calls "pretty bad" surrealist still lifes that often included coffinlike boxes. When she went to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for grad school, her response to American culture was to make "collage-type paintings" that included "Americana-like Liberty Bells and American

flags." Transferring to the University of Illinois at Chicago, she encountered French deconstructionist theory. The readings and discussions got her thinking: "If you're laying down a surface, what are the ramifications of it?" Then Macdonald was "blown away" by a Vija Celmins retrospective in London. "She's got this incredibly controlled technique, which she uses to make work about the space around her without being sentimental." Macdonald began exorcising the figure from her own art. After receiving her MFA in 1996 she worked as studio assistant for Buzz Spector, who was ripping the pages of books. Returning to Scotland for six months, she worked in a corporate mail room, where she began saving the envelopes from junk mail—"I don't know why," she says. Back in Chicago, she tore them into strips for abstract collages she thought of as landscapes or seascapes. Meanwhile the last remnants of figurative work in her art—fragmented body parts—began "morphing into landscapes."

In 1998 Macdonald began commuting weekly from Chicago to Bloomington to teach at Illinois State University. "I would drive past these fields every week, while the snow outside my Logan Square window was turning black from fumes." In 2001 she decided "to make this really unpleasant experience of driving back and forth into something pleasant." For *Route 55* she traced I-55's line again and again and added little trees—camping symbols from the map she used—and bodies of water at the periphery. This year she made *Illinois Unfurled as Field, Snow, Lake*, dominated by a trapezoidal field of white, gray, and black shapes. First



Shona Macdonald, her *Route 55*

she traced the outline of Illinois on a map. Then she cut the line, taped its pieces back together in a straighter line, and traced it again and again, using the state boundary's small curves to make lines that she filled in with shades of gray. The trees atop it are fractal, their shapes repeated in their branches. "Because my work is laborious to make,"

Macdonald says, "my mind wanders and I start thinking about being in different places, about places I've been in Scotland. I find it much easier to make images when I have a system I can work from. When I draw a line or an island, the slowness of transcribing that information is almost like walking across a piece of land." —Fred Camper

Fri 8-8, Sat-Sun 9-5. Sat 12/31, 9-1; closed Sun 1/1-Wed 1/4. 312-829-4150

**David Leonardis** 1346 N. Paulina. Group show, through Tue 1/10. Tue-Sat noon-5. 773-278-3058

**Lincoln Park Conservatory** 2391 N. Stockton. *Pseudorniphones*, sound installation by Bob Snyder, through Tue 2/28. Daily 9-5. 312-742-7736

**LIPA** 410 S. Michigan #502. Stephen Mueller, Robert Mueller, collaborative and individual work, through Fri 12/30. Tue-Sat noon-6. 312-212-1522

**Llorona** 1474 W. Webster. Agustin Casasola, photos of the Mexican revolution, through Fri 1/13. Tue-Fri 10-5:30,

Sat-Sun 4-7. Closed Sat-Sun 12/31-1/1. 773-281-8460

**Lobby** 731 N. Sangamon. "Terra Incognita," installation by Jenny Roberts, through Sat 1/14. Sat noon-5. Closed Sat 12/31. 312-432-4327

**Lucid Artist Co-op** 505 N. Lake Shore, east entrance. Group show; work by Cuban artists, through Fri 1/6. Fri 2-7, Sat noon-8, Sun noon-7. Closed Sat-Sun 12/31-1/1. 312-799-9478

**Ludwig** 3026 N. Central. Work by Anna Poplawska, through Sun 1/15. Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-1, Sun 10-2. Closed Sun 1/1. 773-804-1212

**Marx-Saunders** 230 W. Superior. Richard Whiteley, "architecture-like" glass sculp-

ture, through Sat 1/7. Mon-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-5. 312-573-1400

**Thomas McCormick** 835 W. Washington. Robert Motherwell, John Sabraw, paintings and drawings, through Sat 1/14. Tue-Sat 10-5:30. Closed Sat 12/31. 312-226-6800

**Metropolitan Capital Bank** 9 E. Ontario. Ellen Lanyon, paintings, through Wed 2/1. Mon-Fri 9-6. 312-640-2388

**Meztli** 556 W. 18th. Monique Moreno, paintings and works on paper, through Sat 12/31. Daily 5-9. 312-226-0754

**Peter Miller** 118 N. Peoria. Anne Siems, paintings, through Sat 1/28. Tue-Sat 10-5:30. 312-951-1700

**Muse Cafe** 817 N. Milwaukee. Miro Ledajaks, paintings and other work, through Wed 1/4. "The Prescription Series," work by Steve Gallery, Wed 1/4-Sat 2/4. Sun-Thu 7 AM-10 PM, Fri 7 AM-8 PM, Sat 9-7. Closed Sat-Sun 12/31-1/1. 312-850-2233

**Ann Nathan** 212 W. Superior. Jim Zasoski, paintings; work by James Tyler, Tom McKee, and Tatiana Revskaya, through Sat 12/31. Tue-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 11-5. 312-664-6622

**Nicole** 230 W. Huron. Ifeyinwa Umeike, paintings; work by gallery artists, through Sat 12/31. Tue-Sat 11-5:30. 312-787-7716

**Nicole 2** 4653 S. King. Akinola Ebinezor, paintings, through Sat 1/14. Tue-Sat 11-5:30. 773-373-4700