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Chicago Loop Alliance announces artists for May 2013 Pop-Up Art Loop galleries

Local artists invited to enter international ArtSlant contest, with several winners showcased at Pop-Up Art Loop gallery at corner of State and Adams Streets

CHICAGO (April 16, 2013)—**Chicago Loop Alliance** (CLA) announced today the May artists showcased in its **Pop-Up Art Loop** program, which transforms vacant Loop storefronts into vibrant temporary art galleries. A free **First Thursdays gallery walk** will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 5-8 p.m. to open the new exhibitions. Additional First Thursdays gallery walks are scheduled for June 6, July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5 and Oct. 3 from 5-8 p.m. Pop-Up Art Loop is always free to the public; the gallery walks are self-guided tours of the many new exhibits throughout the Loop, and include complimentary wine and Smilebooth photo booths. For more information, please visit www.PopUpArtLoop.com.

CLA is partnering with contemporary art network **ArtSlant.com** throughout 2013 to host several winners from the site's annual ArtSlant Prize Showcase Series at the Pop-Up Art Loop gallery at State and Adams Streets (202 S. State), beginning with an exhibition of work by **Jerry Shevick** in May. A panel of art professionals from across the country selects the winning entries each month; in May, that team was Jefferson Goddard of Aspect Ratio (Chicago), Robert Greene of Greene Exhibitions (Los Angeles) and Thomas Jaekel of 532 Gallery (New York). Chicago artists are invited to enter the ArtSlant competition, which will ultimately award three artists with exhibition space in ArtSlant's booth at Aqua Art Miami during Miami Art Week 2013. More information is available at www.artslant.com.

In addition to the ArtSlant space at 202 S. State, additional artists and works popping up for CLA's May 2013 Pop-Up Art Loop include:

- **Papier** featuring **Richard Shipps, Eric Wall, and Molly Costello** (Blick Materials, 42 S. State): *Papier* is a group show featuring the work of artists Eric Wall, Richard Shipps and Molly Costello, all of whom work nontraditionally in paper to create collages, sculptures, constructions and installations. Paper is a common utility, one you likely came into contact with today as a receipt of a cardboard box or office print-out. Its availability and widespread use often relegates it as a backdrop for an idea, merely containing a concept expressed with paint or text. The three artists of *Papier* take paper and place it in the forefront, using paper directly to make a creative statement. For more information, visit www.richardshipps.com, ericwallfineart.com and mollycostello.blogspot.com.
- **Bert Green Fine Art** presents **Rafael E. Vera** (8 S. Michigan Ave. Suite 1220): Vera has spent years slowly renovating his own home. The sculptures and works on paper in this show, *Nothing Concrete*, share a focus on the underlying reality of domestic building structural elements. The hidden forms of the domicile are exposed and depicted as mundane and anonymous, yet ripe with abstract qualities. Concrete foundations and wood framing, unremarkable and utilitarian, freed from their role as building materials transform their quotidian existence and are newly interpreted.

- **Ivan Garcia (108 N. State, inside Block37)**: Ivan is a native of Mexico City and has resided in Chicago for six years. He began his artist's work in Chicago as part of the Flat Iron Artist's community in Wicker Park, and is a distinguished alumnus of the institution. He studied at the Escuela Nacional de Pintura in Mexico City, and cites his influences as Wassily Kandinsky, Salvador Dali, Remedios Varo and Jean-Michel Basquiat. He is currently an artist in residence at the Multi-Kulti creative use space in Chicago
- **Gerry Santora presents *Self: Coming Soon* (210 N Wells)**: Part art, part chemistry, Santora's work resides somewhere in the in the area between photography and painting. Using alternative printing methods such as gelatin transfers and digital mixed media, *Self: Coming Soon* is an installation of seven hybrid works, featuring layering and blurring of visual components. Allegory plays a central role, but the effect is a more contemplative one rather than striking an ultimatum or providing a static solution.
- **Westwood College's Chicago Loop Campus presents *The Creative Crop* (23 E. Madison)**: Highlighting ten recent graduates in Visual Communication and Animation, this creative crop of emerging artists will show us what they've got, from the early seeds of an idea to the ripened fruit of their labor, demonstrating their diverse talents in print design, video, animation, photography, illustration, interactive and web. Participating student artists include: Robert Adams, Felicia Bavirsha, Chaniel Clark, Nes Davis, Quittman Farmer, Alfredo Mones, Alex Villanueva and Ryan Zarzecki. For more information on show-related events open to the public throughout the month, visit www.thedesignloop.org/portfolio-showcase.
- **Harold Washington College presents a student art showcase (22 & 28 S. Wabash)**: The window galleries of 22 and 28 S. Wabash will provide student artists of Harold Washington College with a platform to display their work created through involvement in such visual art programs as 2D, 3D, digital multimedia, photography and printmaking.
- **Eric Wall presents selected paper works (29 E. Randolph)**: Eric Wall's experiences traveling and living abroad for extended periods of time, and in particular the feeling of marginalization he experienced, profoundly affected his concepts of place, site adaptation and identity. For more information, visit ericwallfineart.com.

Pop-Up Art Loop is made possible through the generous support of downtown property owners and the **Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation**, which develops and promotes artistic, cultural and public events within the CLA project area. These initiatives enhance the character of the Loop, contribute to its competitive position as a mixed-use destination, and promote economic development and tourism in the area. Additional support for Pop-Up Art Loop is provided by presenting partner **Columbia College Chicago** and arts materials partner **Blick Art Materials**.

Chicago Loop Alliance is a business organization that represents Chicago's most dynamic mixed-use district—the Loop—and advocates for the rapidly growing central business area. CLA is focused on promoting and uniting Loop businesses and organizations to support one another in creating a vibrant, flourishing Loop where people live, work and play.

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