

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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“SITE UNSEEN: OCCUPATION”

**A Site-Specific Performance Event Throughout the Chicago Cultural Center
One Night Only, November 12, 2008, 6-9 pm**

Event presents new theme and adds video work this year

For one night only on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, from 6-9 p.m., the Chicago Cultural Center will host **Site Unseen**, a site-specific performance event featuring theater, dance, music, and visual art by individual artists and ensembles of local and international acclaim. Presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the performances, installations, and video in **Site Unseen** will all be based on the theme of “Occupation.” Works will be created specifically for the rooms and architecture of the Chicago Cultural Center, located at 78 E. Washington Street. Admission is free.

Returning for the fifth consecutive year, **Site Unseen** has been co-curated by artists Julie Laffin and Dolores Wilber. This year, the program includes a program of short videos that will be screened in the Washington Room on the first floor of the Chicago Cultural Center.

Participating artists creating performances and/or installations include Claire Ashley, Wafaa Bilal, BJ Krivanek & Community Architexts, Matthew Owens, H. Peter Steeves, and Chris Sullivan. The video program features work by Sandra Binion, Chi Jang Yin, Susan Giles, Ania Greiner with 3 Card Molly, Emily Kuehn, LocalStyle (Marlena Novak and Jay Alan Yim), Catherine Sullivan, and Tony Vega.

Performances will take place concurrently throughout the galleries, halls, and rooms of the Chicago Cultural Center and need not be viewed in any particular order. The videos will be screened throughout the evening from 6-9 p.m.

The performances and installations in **Site Unseen** include:

EVENT: FORT
Randolph Cafe

Claire Ashley returns this year to reshape the Randolph Cafe area of the building into a structure made entirely of cardboard boxes. Ashley’s work references both domestic and military themes.

EVENT: FOURTH OF JULY 2006, GRANT PARK, CHICAGO
Fourth Floor Randolph Street Area

Wafaa Bilal’s piece about our tendency to distance ourselves from violence will be presented as a video installation on the fourth floor Randolph Street area of the Cultural Center.

EVENT: WORK-PLACE

Sidney R. Yates Hall

BJ Krivanek & Community Architexts create a participatory environment in the Sidney R. Yates Hall that defines and engages the theme of occupation by working with young adults with autism. The work charts their experiences as they enter into the work world.

EVENT: AGENBITE OF INWIT

Preston Bradley Hall

Matthew Owens stages a spectacle in the Preston Bradley Hall replete with a live traditional Irish band and free-wheeling, life-size, bicycle-riding puppets. Owens cites the work as the product of his recent obsession with literary figures that includes Shakespeare, Beckett, and Genet.

EVENT: YOU ARE HERE

GAR Memorial Hall and Rotunda and Claudia Cassidy Theater

Philosopher and writer H. Peter Steeves presents an installation with performance-lecture. Steeves' meditation on the relationship between mapping and occupation can be viewed in the GAR Hall and Rotunda and Claudia Cassidy Theater. The work is a collection of installations and a performance mimicking the tone and context of an antiquated traveling science sideshow and cartographic carnival of curiosities.

EVENT: MARK THE ENCOUNTER

Studio Theater

Chris Sullivan stages a 90-minute performance separated into distinct acts and set in a divided set, contemporary on one side and medieval on the other. Each act spans a theatrical condition from suspending of disbelief to blocking of scenes to adjusting bad lines. All personae are highly imperfect narrators. Sullivan's work can be viewed in the Studio Theater on the first floor.

VIDEO SHORTS

First Floor Washington Room

Sandra Binion

Chi Jang Yin

Susan Giles

Ania Greiner and 3 Card Molly

Emily Kuehn

LocalStyle (Marlena Novak and Jay Alan Yim)

Catherine Sullivan

Tony Vega

Discounted parking is available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging and developing theater companies that call Chicago home.

For more information about **Site Unseen**, call 312.744.6630 or visit the recently relaunched www.dcatheater.org. The enhanced website features more information about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a new blog, photo galleries, and visitor information.

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Note to Press: Electronic images available at www.dcatheater.org/press or by request.