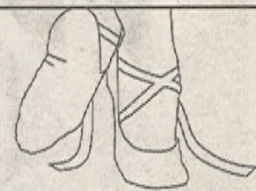


for art's sake

By Elio Iannacci



Art

GROUPE

This month's major exhibit to seek out is at both the **Chicago Cultural Center** (78 E. Washington St., 312/744-6630) and the **Harold Washington Library Center** (400 S. State St., 312/747-4300) — they're both simultaneously showing Sebastião Salgado's exhibition, "Migrations: Humanity in Transition and The Children." This fantastic documentary photographer has worked in over 35 countries, following groups of people who have left their homelands in hopes of a better life. Salgado's displayed work encompasses seven years of traveling with refugees, exiles and people who have left their homes out of emotional, financial or political displacement. In the Chicago Cultural Center (located at the Exhibit Hall and the Sidney R. Yates Gallery), the emphasis is on the migrations of Asia, Africa and Latin America, whereas the Harold Washington Library Center (in the lower level Main Exhibit Hall) exhibits 100 photographs directed towards Europe and North America. This timely exhibit captures hope in its most beautiful, uninterrupted moment as many of the people photographed are so deeply preoccupied with planning survival or feeling the burden of their move that the eye of the viewer gets a severe reality check, inspiring both intrigue and introspection. For more photos with feeling at the Cultural Center, take a gander at Ralph Eugene Meatyard's "Photographs" exhibit. Influenced by Zen poetry and surrealism, the 35 black and white photographs were taken in the 1950s and 1960s.

Another intense yet important major exhibit is the **Terra Museum's** (664 N. Michigan Ave., 312/664-3939) astounding showcase of American Modernism. The title of the exhibit, "Debating American Modernism: Stieglitz, Duchamp and the New York Avant Garde," may by a

mouthful but the actual work itself is monumental. Featuring 70 paintings, sculptures, photographs, works on paper and "readymades," this show highlights work from the 1910s and '20s — a pivotal point in time in the New York art world that seminally shifted the way in which North American artists and critics thought about and created art. This is a perfect visual appetizer to the exciting Man Ray show that will launch this winter (January 24) at the Terra.

River North's galleries, still getting over the hoopla and fandango of the Absolut Vision celebrations of last month, are showing some fine works sans vodka. **Roy Boyd Gallery** (739 N. Wells, 312-642-1606) is showcasing artist John Fraser's exhibit of collaged papers entitled "Close Values" alongside Dan Ziembo's vibrant new collection of acrylic paintings on canvas. The **Gescheide** gallery (300 W. Superior, 312/654-0600) is also making its mark with the closing of Thomas Metcalf's oil portrait paintings (the most striking being the 40 x 65-inch painting called "Night") show on August 23 and the opening of a show by artists Steven Carrelli and Paul Pratchenko on September 5.

Lastly, two West loop galleries that hold some noteworthy work are **FLATFILEcontemporary gallery's** (118 N. Peoria, 312/491-1190) "Think Art" show, featuring the strange-but-true works of Canadian-born Dr. Audrius Pliplys (which superimposes brain scans over photograph works) and the ever-so-trusty **Julia Friedman Gallery's** (118 N. Peoria, 312/455-0755) solo exhibition by artist Jun'ya Yamaide titled "Project No-20, Nowhere." Yamaide's work examines and demasks cultural symbols, icons and structures that have affected the world with their presence.

scene/heard

Mark Your Calendars

September 5-October 4: Steve Hough launches his new collection of stereo-chromatic paintings — titled "Veil" — at the **Zg Gallery** (300 W. Superior, 312/654-9900).

September 5: From 6-9 p.m., **Womanmade Gallery** (2418 W. Bloomingdale, 773/489-8900) is having an opening reception for a group show titled "Digitally Speaking." All of the artwork in this show will be influenced by technology in some way, shape or form.

Through October 13: Catch the "Window On The West" exhibit happening at the **Art Institute of Chicago** (111 S. Michigan Ave., 312/443-3600) before it leaves. Filled with a variety of works by Georgia O'Keefe, Hermon Atkins MacNeil and Thomas Moran, this multi-artist exhibit showcases the contradictions of the wild, wild West.

Short & Sweet

Name: Carlos Flores

Current Work on Display: "Los Puertorriqueños en Chicago: Photographs by Carlos Flores" at the **City Gallery** (806 N. Michigan Ave., 312/742-0808) until September 29.

How did you first get into photography? I was only 17 and I was a high school dropout. Basically someone just put a camera in my hand so I started taking pictures. I got interested quick and started working at a photo lab. I would never thought that in my wildest dreams that 30 years later that these photos would be a documentation on how we as Puerto Ricans and Latinos travel from one neighborhood to another.

What does your work represent to you? Nothing specific. But I do think the photos show that we are part of the Chicago canvas. We've been here for a long time and these photographs show our place, our growth and how we travel. A lot of my photographs start in Lincoln Park because a lot of us used to live in that neighborhood.

Which years of taking photographs are the most relevant to you? I would say between 1970-1980. Those photographs give you a sense of what neighborhoods like Lincoln Park were like before the change. It was one of the first gentrified neighborhoods in Chicago. It used to be a working class community. Now it is service oriented and it has become one of the most affluent neighborhoods in the whole country.

What is your biggest motivation when taking photos? The community that I live in and that I surround myself in is my canvas. My community is growing by leaps and bounds. My purpose is to document so I can catch the development. My focus is on showing people at play, work and leisure. I want to show that the Puerto Rican Latino community is an integral part of what makes this city such a great place to live.

How do you think your photographs define the Puerto Rican community? The two largest groups in the city are the Mexican and the Puerto Ricans. The one common thing that we all have is that we speak Spanish. Outside of that we have many cultural differences — the food we eat, the music we listen to, the way we live and the way we dance are very different. I have a photo that is in the exhibit that is called "Dancer." It is of this couple dancing the Salsa in a forest preserve up on Milwaukee and Devon streets back in 1972. It pretty much speaks for itself.



"Church Gate Station, Bombay, India, 1995"; Copyright Sebastião Salgado/AMAZONAS Images
From "Migrations: Humanity in Transition," Aperture, New York, 2000
Photo courtesy Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

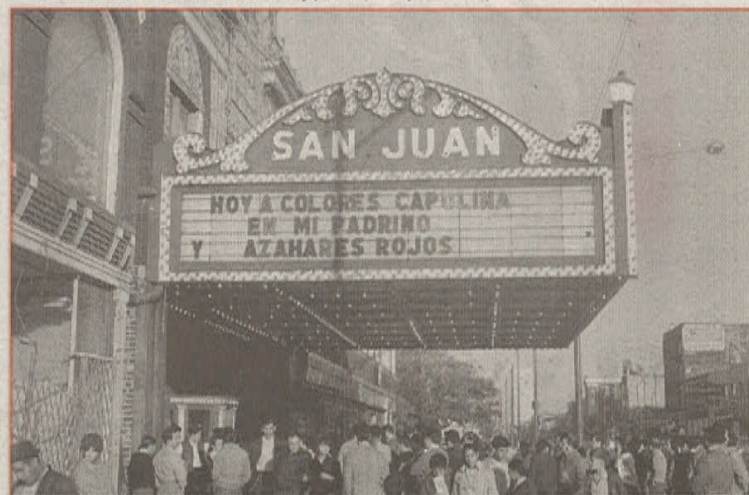


Photo courtesy of Carlos Flores