

[Jump to EPAC Mention](#)

## 10 art shows to see this fall



**Lori Waxman**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

'Bad at Sports' makes art make sense, at ground level

 [SHARE THIS](#)



SEPTEMBER 4, 2015, 8:14 AM

**T**his fall, feminist perspectives, generally, and women artists, particularly, take over the Chicago arts scene. It wasn't planned by the city, a museum conglomerate or even one of the local academies; it just worked out that way. That's grass roots, baby.

**"Paola Cabal: Crescent"**: Blue moons are not just a saying, and they are not at all blue. They are extra full moons that make up for the gap between celestial cycles and the human calendar. Cabal spent the night of July 31 in the Riverside Arts Center recording the light cast by this rare astronomical phenomenon. How does it differ from the shades of other moons, and of the gallery's natural light? Cabal's painterly mastery of subtle shifts in shadow promises illumination. Aug. 30 to Oct. 3, Riverside Arts Center, 32 E. Quincy St., Riverside, Ill., 708-442-6400, [www.riversideartscenter.com](http://www.riversideartscenter.com)

**"Deana Lawson"**: The people in Lawson's photographs are often nude, mostly at home, and always black. What they reveal for her

Brooklyn neighborhood, in recent years Lawson has set out for Ethiopia, Haiti and farther still, linking local bodies with global ones. September 5-January 10, Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan Ave., 312-443-3600, [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)

**"Warm Kitty, Soft Kitty"**: Touch is the only one of the five senses that reciprocates — to touch is to be touched. What that means in an increasingly digitalized age is increasingly vital. In consideration, guest curator Camille Morgan offers a knowingly sentimental title and the work of 19 artists: embroidered hands by Eliza Bennett, smart-heart-on-her-sleeve performances by Alexandria Eregbu, a crushingly happy video by Hiro Murai, the hirsute furnishings of Fo Wilson, and more. September 6-December 13, Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell Ave., 773-324-5520, [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)

**"Irena Haiduk: Seductive Exacting Realism"**: Under a title that threatens to create its own terrifying movement, of which she may be the first member, Haiduk presents a song sung by two hired voices. The original duet was an interview the artist recorded with Srda Popovic, a winningly handsome Serbian political activist and consultant who titled his TED talk "How to topple a dictator." Will the tune be danceable? Certainly it'll be catchy. Watch out. September 10-October 8, The Renaissance Society, 5811 S. Ellis Ave., 773-702-8670, [www.renaissancesociety.org](http://www.renaissancesociety.org)

**"Agnes Varda: Photographs Get Moving (potatoes and shells, too)"**: The 87-year-old grande dame of French New Wave cinema is coming to town. She will show video installations and still photographs. Anyone who is moved by curiosity, by the quotidian, by potatoes shaped like hearts; who is intrigued by simple questions that turn out to have far-reaching, profound and

sometimes also silly answers; who cares about real women and having their experiences be a part of the world — anyone like that should probably see this show. And try to catch a glimpse of Varda herself, who will grace a series of related film screenings. September 11-November 8, Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th Street, 773-702-6082, [arts.uchicago.edu](http://arts.uchicago.edu)

**"Jessica Stockholder: Door Hinges," "ASSISTED" and "Rose's Inclination"**: In previous projects, Stockholder has used brilliant, blocky swaths of paint to marshal old sofas and lamps, refrigerator doors, aisles of plastic housewares, sidewalk grates, shipping containers and even a city intersection into a dynamic whirlwind zippy enough to knock your socks off. The results feels happy, ruthless and generous all at once. At Kavi Gupta, her new sculptures will act as "Assists" for work by 16 other artists, including Polly Apfelbaum and Sol Lewitt; at the Smart, she'll wallop the prim lobby, bursting out into the garden and beyond. September 12-January 16, Kavi Gupta, 219 Elizabeth St., 312-432-0708, [www.kavigupta.com](http://www.kavigupta.com); September 12-July 2, Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave., 773-702-0200, [www.smartmuseum.uchicago.edu](http://www.smartmuseum.uchicago.edu)

**"Creatures from the Concrete"**: Nine local ladies armed with cans of spray paint, buckets of wheat paste and neatly cutout stencils will take over the second floor of the Art Center to make their collective mark. It's safer than tagging the side of a train car, and there's no more denying it belongs in the gallery. From Beloved, Monstrochika, Zorzorzor and crew, expect tough kids, zombie cats, sacred geometry and no nonsense, none at all. September 13-January 10, Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell Ave., 773-324-5520, [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)

**"Vacancy: Urban Interruption and (Re)Generation"**: If architecture is the great new locus of social change, abandoned real estate is the place to be. Chicago has plenty of it, often as not surrounded by a dearth of communal resources. "Vacancy" presents projects by Emmanuel Pratt, Amanda Williams, Andres L. Hernandez and their collaborators that fill these empty spaces not only with imaginative possibility, but also with an aquaponics system, a colorful refuge for black women, and a dance in memory of Cabrini-Green. September 14-November 14, Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash, 312-369-6643, [students.colum.edu/deps/glass-curtain-gallery](http://students.colum.edu/deps/glass-curtain-gallery)

**"La Palette: The Chicago Palette"**: In our tell-all times, artists are expected to offer revelations that go beyond the final presentation of a sculpture, photograph or installation. Only recently has it made sense to put Francis Bacon's studio on display in a Dublin gallery. Chicago gets its own version thanks to the work of Dr. Stephen Sheldon, a specialist in pediatric sleep disorders who moonlights as a photographer of palettes. The work surfaces of a dozen-and-a-half Chicago painters, including Michelle Grabner, Richard Hull and Roger Brown, will hang alongside their finished canvases. September 19-November 29, The Ed Paschke Art Center, 5415 Higgins Ave., 312-533-4911, [www.edpaschkeartcenter.org](http://www.edpaschkeartcenter.org)

**"Brandon Alvendia: The Great Good Place"**: What is a great good place? It's a neighborhood hangout and also, arguably, the basis for democratic civic engagement. In the regular world, these spaces are fast disappearing. In the art world, they're the stuff of relational installations. Alvendia brings them all together — well, one week at a time, really, with plenty of local collaborators, as yet unconfirmed — for a potluck block party sleepover workshop BBQ nightclub blowout. November 7-December 12, Threewalls, 119 N. Peoria, 312-432-3972, [www.three-walls.org](http://www.three-walls.org)

*Lori Waxman is a special contributor to the Chicago Tribune and a lecturer at the School of the Art Institute.*

*[ctc-arts@tribpub.com](mailto:ctc-arts@tribpub.com)*

*Twitter @chitribent*

[Back to top](#)