

For immediate release:



Bruno Surdo, *A Selfie, A Pink Unicorn, Paparazzi! What does it take to get noticed?*

Gallery VICTOR Presents: Our Time

*In celebration of The Art Center Highland Park's 65th anniversary
May 3 - June 14, 2025*

Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Gallery VICTOR is thrilled to collaborate with The Art Center Highland Park on the exciting new exhibition, *Our Time*.

Launched in 2017, Gallery VICTOR now represents more than 70 artists, making it one of the most respected spaces for contemporary art in Chicago's River North neighborhood. The gallery's owner and executive director, Victor Armendariz, began his career at the venerable Ann Nathan Gallery in Chicago. He takes pride in championing the work of both emerging and established talent.



The Art Center Highland Park
1957 Sheridan Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035

Our Time brings together the work of a diverse group of internationally recognized artists. Working together with executive director James Lynch, gallery manager Caleb John Smith, and the teams at both The Art Center Highland Park and Gallery VICTOR, we present this exhibition of artwork that reflects some of today's strongest creative talent.

Many of the works in this exhibition portray people from all walks of life, reflecting a wide array of human experience. Bruno Surdo's monumental paintings are packed with people in the throes of daily life –standing in a crowd, hanging out in a café, or embracing a lover. Mary Borgman's full frontal portraits are both confrontational and vulnerable; their deep gazes draw in the viewer, and we are left with an intimate sense of knowing these 'everyday strangers.' Rose Freymuth-Frazier's works are daring and gutsy reflections on the state of the environment and general cultural id. Steve Banks' "playful train of consciousness" canvases could only come from someone who grew up in the modern age of TV, movies, and music. And then the legendary photography of Art Shay transports us back to the last half of the 20th century with images of the celebrities, athletes, and politicians who defined that turbulent era.

The non-figurative works in the exhibition are equally compelling. Indeed, in these works, it is the absence of a figure that allows our mind to travel to unknown and magical places. Carol Pylant's portal paintings juxtapose facades painted in a highly realistic style against dream-like landscapes. Both Christina Haglid and Mark Bowers draw on their life experiences to challenge the viewer with visual puzzles. Filled with symbolic objects, they read like cherished poems –to be read again and again, each time discovering something new.

The Kupjack Studios miniature rooms have dazzled audiences for generations with their contribution to the famed Thorne Miniature Rooms at The Art Institute of Chicago. Everyone who stands in front of these rooms is allowed again to be a child, shrinking themselves in their imagination to explore the unparalleled reality of a world in miniature.

Gallery VICTOR hopes that the collaboration with The Art Center Highland Park is the first of many and that the audience who visits this exhibition is captivated by the creativity of these wonderful artists. This is, after all, *Our Time*.

Our Time opens on the night of the Art Center's spring Benefit, May 3. Tickets are available here. A free public reception for the show will open on May 16th from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

For press inquiries and images, please contact csmith@theartcenterhp.org
Call 847-432-1888 or visit www.theartcenterhp.org