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Must-See Art Exhibits

Our weekly round-up of shows worth a peek.

Wednesday Oct 10, 2007. By [Justin Sondak](#)

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photo: Chicago Artists Coalition

in Eileen Neil's "Between the Cracks" (pictured) and Valerie Schiff's gloriously tragic "Morpheus" figure. Admission is a \$5 suggested donation, which supports the Chicago Artists' Coalition advocacy for and services to the Chicago arts community.

[2007 Chicago Art Open](#)

Runs through October 27 at the Iron Studios, 3636 S. Iron

This sprawling Chicago Artists Month showcase, representing more than 300 locally based student and professional artists, delivers an array of multiple media delights around every corner. We can't stop thinking about the politically charged work from Bonnie Peterson, whose "Washington West Quadrangle" transposes Iraqi war news onto a map of our nation's capital, and Mario Alberico, whose "XIII-Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross" elevates lynching victims to messianic levels. Not to be missed is the sculpture corner in the front space, featuring clay hands and baubles protruding from a paper canvas

[Sojourn](#)

Runs through October 21 at [Margin Art Gallery and Collective](#)

The exhibit's title references the journey taken by this barely year-old collective and its artists, like [Avisheh Mohsenin's reconnection to departed loved ones living in worlds she never knew](#), and Todd Logan and Paul Kepner's recontextualized emails. The darkest corners of this exhibit, from T.W. Li's reevaluation of images related to 9/11 to Paige Barnes's return to childhood's forbidden forest, are its most fascinating.

[Loaded Landscapes](#)

Runs through October 13 at the [Museum of Contemporary Photography](#)

What you don't see is every bit as important as what you do see in these pictures, notably in Joel Sternfeld's return to tragic locales and Anna Shteynshleyger's too-quiet Siberian scenes. You're ultimately asked to bring your experience, knowledge and assumptions to bear on more politically charged work contemplating the walls dividing the Middle East, Northern Ireland, Korea, and the U.S.-Mexico border, so you may consider natural beauty's hidden brutality.

[Caleb Weintraub: We Must Go and Tell the King](#)

Runs through October 13 at [Peter Miller Gallery](#)

Jeff Wall

"Alluring to the point of transfixion"
-The New York Times

Through September 23

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO