C3 Upcycles Our Unwanted, Piled and Uninspired

by Mary Badinger
photos by Stan Kotecki

And all for a good cause, as we were pleased to be one of the sponsors for the 2015 Chicago Art Mart exhibition and sale. On Saturday May 2, C3 members encouraged art-by-committee through morphing discarded odds and ends into assemblage pieces of large-scale art.

Hundreds of Christmas cards, cut into pieces, produced an abstract mosaic mural. Broken violin parts and a double bass shaped form became a wall-mounted figure. Wood, screws, nails, tin cans, key rings and chaff from junk drawers merged into a wacky hardware totem. And strips of fabrics adorned with trinkets of all types hung from a walk-through cubic frame to become an interactive installation.

Karen Woodbury and her team at Superior Street Center for the Arts were gracious hosts, providing us with a terrific workshop space and a generous bar. Even the sunshine and warm weather didn’t keep folks from coming inside to play. As creative professionals, it is our nature and training to understand and judge visual art; that notion was playfully challenged. Letting go of our preconceived ideas of what makes “good” art was an unexpected lesson in patience and acceptance. Hmm. In the moment, one-of-a-kind, non-archival, temporary and inspiring. Not all great art, perhaps, but great fun.

But it wasn’t just creative play, there was upcycled art for sale too. C3 member Joey Korom had paintings and collage alongside other artists’ home decor, apparel, jewelry and fine art. All-in-all an arty gathering proving that everyday items can be transformed into fabulous treasures.
The Creativity in Change

The departure of winter and the advent of spring is a welcome reminder of the change built into all of life. Spring ushers in graduations, daffodils, crocus and tulips, nesting birds, unearthed treasures buried beneath frozen ground and a return to the color green.

On April 21, a dozen C3 members had dinner and conversation with students from the School of Graphic and Industrial Design, Universidad Anáhuac, Querétaro in Mexico. Our encounter was a reminder to me of how change is an implicit part of the life of creative professionals.

It was an opportunity to look at two ends of the spectrum—students imagining what their professional lives will look like and veteran creatives reflecting on the fruits of past years of work. In many ways, I learned as much from the students as the information I could pass along to them.

I learned that using the skills of a designer always involves change. As soon as I have completed a task, another is to follow. The book I create today will look different tomorrow. Novelty will have its day in the sun and circle back around to retrospective.

I’m not a natural to change. Some part of me would like to encapsulate the familiar, the tried and true, the “correct” way to do something. My ability to see change jars me out of my complacence and reminds me it is a constant that takes more energy to resist than to accept and embrace.

Creative change is a close cousin of beauty and beauty catches us off guard—often in an unguarded moment of deep attention and self-forgetting. It is an invitation to be with what has happened and what is about to occur—ascending the graceful arc of a spiral staircase in anticipation of what lies at the top, watching an elegant ray of sun reveal the façade of a building. These moments in between are the special purview of the artist. They occur at the intersection of change—something becoming new. We interpret them and present them to those who will look. But we’re always aware they’ll never occur again in the same way.

Chicago Creative Coalition is changing as well. We are welcoming new members, expanding our creative horizons with different programs, meeting students just beginning their creative lives, creating events that delight imagination. It’s impossible to avoid change. Whether you dip your toes in the water or plunge in headlong, join in the adventure. Find the conversation that belongs to you. We are here to help make that happen!
We’ve Come A Long Way Since The Logo Turtle

by Brent Brotine
photos Michael Tanimura

Think back to when we were kids, and it was really hot stuff to learn how to make a triangle-shaped turtle move on the computer screen. Today, all the cool kids know — and are teaching their parents — how to do much more to tinker, make stuff and ask “what if?”

At our Expose Yourself: Go Bananas program on March 18, creative geniuses George Berlin and David Tanimura gave 15 C3 members, guests and young’uns a hands-on look at some of the 21st century’s most fun and amazing tools. We met at a location that appealed to everyone’s inner child: Little Beans Cafe on Webster, a playspace that offers interactive events year-round for children and families.

We started by exploring a program called “Scratch”, an intuitive coding language developed by the MIT Media Lab especially for ages 8 to 16 (but appropriate for young and old alike.) Scratch lets you program by stacking events like you would Lego blocks to create games, interactive stories, music, art and more. George and David showed us how easy it is to use, and all the various things you can create with it. (It’s a free download at scratch.mit.edu)

continued on page 5

CREATIVE PRACTICE

From the Board
by Mary Badinger

Your C3 board meets on the first Tuesday of every month. For years and years, we have joined together at the photo studio of T. J. Hine. As April draws to a close, T. J. is moving from his spacious studio, and so shall the board meetings. I want to take this moment to acknowledge and thank T. J. for his hospitality. His generosity gave us bearings and a routine that kept our ship steady for years.

We will continue to meet monthly on our regular schedule, and rotate our gathering place among our board member homes. It is, perhaps, a new chapter, and may inspire new perspectives and ideas. Consider this, C3 members, an invitation to join us at any of our board meetings. Perhaps you’d like to present an idea, or just be a fly on the wall. If you want to come by, let any board member know you’d like to attend, and we’ll make sure you know where we are so that we can welcome you. Remember, change is good for creatives.

So T. J., thank you! Here’s to the end of an era and the beginning of the next chapter for our intrepid C3 board.

Sum-Sum-Summertime!
by George Berlin

Dig through the back of the closet folks—can you even REMEMBER where you put those Bermuda shorts last year?

Sun and fun is back for Chicago Creative Coalition, with inspiring stuff to see and do over the next few months!

First off, our annual event June 20! Without giving too much away, there’s a good chance it will involve scavenging. And booze. Nuff said. Bring your special somebody and vote for all the great people you want leading more amazing things in the next year. Or come volunteer for the board yourself. Making all these things happen takes time and enthusiasm, both very finite resources for all us busy professionals designing like mad every day. So come help! We need you.

July 24–26, C3 will again be sponsoring PhotoArt Fest at Jeff Fest this year. We’ve added a Student competition too, so come see all the great art and help get the word out about what we do—volunteers welcome. Again, we bribe you with booze and grilled encased meats (or veggies).

Also this summer, the programs planning (and DOING) BBQ Aug. 20. We need your great ideas on what to do next year and some help in making them a reality. The Super-Fantastic T. J. Hine will no longer have his studio space to offer for programs, so we need some ideas on how to take this show on the road—come pitch in! Meats, eats, sweets, and feats of amazing brilliance for all who attend. This is your chance to get what you want out of C3. See a summer theme, here?

Beyond that, well, we progressively move things indoors with less meat and more hot beverages. Remember where to put those shorts back.

continued on page 5
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Learning from the Americanos

by Michael Tanimura
photos T. J. Hine

Luckily the language of design is universal—and we had Blanca Robledo to translate—as C3 hosted students from the School of Graphic and Industrial Design, Universidad Anáhuac (UA), Querétaro, Mexico.

Ten C3 members had the chance to talk shop with the 22 students and four teachers from UA. Over salad and pizza, we had a chance to give our perspectives on working as creative professionals, as well as share our favorite stories about Chicago.

We learned about the program at UA, where students can study graphic or industrial design (or both). For many of the students, this was a chance to learn more about working professionally in the graphic arts, to help them decide if they wanted to concentrate on graphic or industrial design.

It was very interesting to learn that it was mandatory for all the design students to take ethics. The course covered the big picture of the power of design to influence people (like in Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia), as well as the more mundane aspects of ethical business practices and pricing.

This dinner came about because of the power of good design. Back at the beginning of this year, one of the School’s teachers found C3’s website, and in an email said she “admired a lot of our work” and asked if her students could meet with us while on their trip to Chicago. She saw it as a wonderful opportunity for her students to learn about working professionally in design.

As at any good networking event, we all learned things from each other; it was an energizing evening for all!

One step ahead for over 35 years

Consolidated Printing has combined exceptional print quality with an invariable commitment to environmental sustainability since it was founded in 1973. With full-service printing capabilities, state-of-the-art technology and a holistic system of unique green printing practices, Consolidated not only delivers beautiful, vivid materials, but environmental peace of mind.

Consolidated’s sustainability practices include:
• eliminating petroleum, toxins and carcinogens
• generating no hazardous waste water
• reusing or recycling 100% of their paper waste, inks, toners and ink sludge
• receiving 100% of their paper via sustainably harvested forests
• using alcohol-free fountain solutions
• reducing energy consumption by over 30%.

For an eco-friendly quote, call 773.631.2800 or visit consolidatedprinting.net.

How to join C3
The easiest access to a C3 membership application is through our website: www.chicagocreative.org/join-c3/. Pay online through PayPal or contact membership@chicagocreative.org for a membership application to fill out and mail with a check to: Chicago Creative Coalition, P.O. Box 578477, Chicago, IL 60657-8477, Attn: Membership Director.
E-mail questions to: C3@ChicagoCreative.org or to the Membership Director: membership@chicagocreative.org

Like what you see?
Ink Printed digitally on Xerox 700.
Paper This newsletter is printed on Mohawk Options 70# text, 100% PC white. A 100% PCW paper with an exclusive Inxwell process to give the color of ink more pop without having to print on a coated paper.
Process The digital press uses waste-free toner and no fuser oil. The process is 100% chemical free—printed courtesy of Consolidated Printing.
Quieter By The Lake
by Brent Brotine
photo Stan Kotecki

While the new Chicago Lake FX Summit + Expo was a cool free conference for many creative professionals, it was a bit of a yawner for C3 and the other creative organizations who were huddled together on the second floor of the Chicago Cultural Center. Yet while some of the glitzier locales and creative tracks (the music events at Hard Rock Hotel, fashion events at the Virgin Hotel, film events at the Siskel Center, etc.) outshadowed our relatively sedate expo hall, we’re still glad we were there promoting C3 membership on the afternoons of April 17 and 18.

George Berlin put together an attention-getting video about C3 that we displayed continuously by our table. And because our table was right by both CWIP and IWOC, we were able to informally make sure that people who came by met with all three organizations.

Our thanks to table volunteers T. J. Hine, Michael Tanimura, Carolyn Aronson, Laura Marie Sanchez, Bob Benenson, George Berlin, Nate Marks, Caleb Mikenas and Stan Kotecki. We made a number of good connections that will help C3 with programming and member benefits in 2015, so stay tuned!

Meeting C3ers of Tomorrow at Prairie State
by Cindy McEwen
photo Warren Perlstein

Another way we recently delivered on the “Educate Creative Lives” portion of our mission was by participating in portfolio reviews at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights. On April 30, seven C3 members met up with Fine and Applied Art Program faculty member (and former C3 member) Michael Maddox, along with 16 graduating design students.

We first visited the Graduate Exhibition in the Christopher Art Gallery, where we were paired up with students showing work in our respective fields—photography, design, fine art, etc. The students described their work on display, and then moved to classrooms to show us their portfolios on iMac computers.

Each C3 reviewer rated their students’ skill levels in Creative Thinking, Visual Elements, Design, Technical Execution & Presentation and Statement of Purpose. The four-point rating scale we used was Marginal … Approaching Proficiency… Proficient … and Advanced. Students studying for double degrees, such as fine arts and graphic design, were assessed on both areas.

We ended the day at the Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery, located in the downtown Flossmoor train station, where Mike Maddox treated us to excellent food and brews. Some of the students will be continuing their education at SAIC or other institutions, and we certainly hope to welcome them at future C3 meetings.

Logo Turtle continued from page 3

We then moved on to playing with an amazing gizmo called Makey Makey. It’s a small board-like device that connects to your computer, and can then be hooked up to any objects (or people) that can conduct at least a tiny bit of electricity. You can feed Makey Makey input with everything from an Oreo cookie to a plant to aluminum foil to your cat — and your computer accepts it just as a keyboard or joystick. As we discovered, it’s a trip to play piano using bananas as the keys. (Their newest version, a USB dongle, is being sold on their Kickstarter page.)

Little Beans also has a new Evanston location, and as you might expect from their name they have not only food, but Intelligentsia Coffee. We enjoyed their hospitality!
Warren Perlstein

Warren Perlstein is a professional photographer with more than 45 years of experience in commercial, industrial, architectural and event photography. He is also a photography instructor and hosts a popular monthly “Photography Wine & Critique” at Chicago Photography Center and the National Veteran’s Art Museum in Portage Park.

Warren has a deep connection to the Native American community through his photographic contributions to the American Indian Center of Chicago (AIC). His photography is exhibited at the National Museum of the American Indian and in various Smithsonian publications. A former traditional dancer and singer at powwows, Warren now sings with the Red Line Singers and instructs Native American youth about the powwow drum.

For more information on Warren’s professional photography, please visit www.perlsteinphoto.com or email Warren at warren@perlsteinphoto.com.

Warren Perlstein
773.671.9107
warren@perlsteinphoto.com
www.perlsteinphoto.com
Cartoon superstar and Creative Genius George Berlin is conquering the world of medicine for his latest projects. Working with Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, he’s making tons of fun animations as the basis for several scientific testing apps measuring cognition, pattern recognition, and social functions in infants as part of the National Children’s Study. And he’s partnering with a global diabetes testing supplies manufacturer on 25 comic strips about corporate culture, with huge illustrated banners of his designs at launch parties and conferences worldwide.

1. Member Karen Woodbury is again hosting summer painting retreats at her Iowa farmhouse. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of rural life under a spreading canopy of ancient pines. Rustic farmhouse accommodation, tasty French inspired meals, fine wines and painting supplies are all included. No experience is necessary! Come to relax, refresh, and renew. Register for a weekend at www.frenchcreek-farmhouse.com.

2. For the first time, the James Beard Awards honoring outstanding chefs, restaurants, restaurateurs, authors and all things culinary, were held in Chicago. Cindy McEwen and husband Gary Adcock — an Awards judge — were in attendance at many of the city-wide events. Rubbing elbows with the likes of culinary icons Grant Achatz, Curtis Duffy, Takashi Yagihashi, Rick Bayless and Stephanie Izard from Chicago as well as national chefs Mario Batali, Ming Tsai and Thomas Keller, Cindy and Gary spent many hours enjoying beverages and bites at receptions and parties as well as the awards ceremony itself.

3. Stan Kotecki has started walking an hour in the morning for exercise along the Des Plaines River Trail. The Des Plaines River is muddy because it runs through some of the most fertile soil in Illinois. He has developed this series called the Des Plaines River Valley to make the ordinary look extraordinary and invite others to experience it by making it more appealing.

New Members

Lisa Richards
LMR Photography
773.370.0462
bgf6247@gmail.com

2015–16 Board Nominations

We have several open positions can always use volunteers for programs and special events. If you are interested in joining the board or getting involved, please contact Stephen Starr at steve@stephenb Staffordesign.com.

President Stephen Starr
Vice President Kathleen Kearns
Secretary Open
Treasurer Carolyn Aronson
Programs George Berlin
Membership Mike Tanimura
Newsletter Cindy McEwen, Brent Brotine

Communications Cindy McEwen
Internet Jason Feinberg
Social Media David Tanimura
Marketing & PR Open
Special Events Stan Kotecki, Caleb Mikenas
Education/Intern Coordinator Open
**Company**  FamilyFarmed, a nonprofit based in Oak Park and Chicago, that is a leader in the Good Food movement

**Occupation**  Journalist

**Current Project**  A couple. I managed and either write or edit all of the content on FamilyFarmed’s Good Food on Every Table website (goodfoodoneverytable.com), which I also mostly illustrate with my own photographs. I also am working in my free time to figure out the best ways to try to sell some of my inventory of photographs, most of which focus on Chicago’s amazing scenic beauty.

**Dream Client**  One who pays me lots and lots of money. And sends me bottles of expensive top-shelf whiskey on birthdays and holidays. (You did say dream client…)

**Family/Kids/Pets**  Barb, the Illinois farm girl who I married, and I celebrated our 30 wedding anniversary on March 25. No kids. We have a gorgeous black and white cat named Gracie, nicknamed “the queen of Chicago,” who has tons of personality. We have been very lucky over the years with our cats.

**Hobbies/Interests**  Photography (though that is inching toward becoming a professional interest), Cooking (really anything that has to do with food — I actually enjoy grocery shopping), Watching sports (big Cubs and Blackhawks fan, and fanatical about the teams of Michigan State, my alma mater).

**Three Words that Best Describe Me**  Nice. Fiercely determined.

**Gadget I Can’t Live Without**  My Sony Nex-3 camera. It is practically attached to me.

**Favorite CDs/Recording Artists**  Stuck in the 60s and 70s. If forced to choose, I’d say The Beatles and Crosby, Stills and Nash (and Young).

**Favorite Website**  Good Food on Every Table (seriously, what would you expect me to say?)

**My Fantasy Is**  Being free from financial worries. Not very romantic, eh?

**I’d Give Anything to Meet**  That person who wants to pay me lots of money and send me expensive whiskey.

**Prized Possession**  Gotta go with my faithful camera. Can’t say Gracie the Cat because she’s more of a family member.

**My Inspiration Comes From**  Thanks to my use of Facebook as my platform for performance art, my life is pretty much an open book. A lot of people don’t know I’m a cancer survivor, though.

**Favorite Food**  Gaahh… I love so many different kinds of food that I just can’t single one out. I love rib-eye steaks and lobster, but I can be just as happy with a perfect peach or a great loaf of bread.

**Favorite Restaurant**  I’m fond of a few places, such as Big Jones, Trattoria No. 10, and the Publican. But, strange as this sounds for a foodie, I don’t eat out that often. Part budgetary, but I’m also overly fond of my own cooking.

**Favorite TV Show**  Really don’t watch much these days. Big fan of the great ensemble sitcoms of the past, and still watch some of those on the rerun channels.

**Places I’ve Traveled**  Ireland four times. Much of eastern Canada (love Nova Scotia). Spent a lot of time in New England when I was younger. Have visited about half of the states.

**The One Thing Nobody Knows About Me**  That person who wants to pay me lots of money and send me expensive whiskey.

**I Always Find this Funny**  My own jokes. I think I’m a total stitch.

**Favorite Way to Chill Out**  Watching the Cubs play at Wrigley Field. Especially weekday afternoon games, which are just like playing hooky.