

Step into the world of Angelo Testa and share one of the most important art experiences of this century. An exhibition reviewing 40 years of Testa's work as designer, painter, sculptor and weaver continues through May 6 in the College of Architecture, Art and Urban Planning Gallery of the University of Illinois at Chicago, 400 S. Peoria at Van Buren, 12 to 3 p.m., weekdays.

The first graduate of Moholy-Nagy's re-creation of the German Bauhaus in Chicago, Testa won immediate fame in 1947 as creator of the first abstract textile designs to be mass-produced in the United States. Since then he has remained faithful to Bauhaus principles and philosophy, while working with leading textile companies and architects. He stands for honest use of materials and technology for "the creation of a visual experience that equates to man today."

It is no wonder, then, that Testa's exhibit looks contemporary although some pieces were done decades ago. The show has remarkable wholeness and consistency, despite the variety of his work. Here is abstract design, modified by that special Testa quality—a refusal to be static or mechanical. Always there is something dynamic, deliberately askew, or meandering, even in the most formal design. Always there is concern for texture, which Testa calls, "God-Nature's most rewarding contribution to man's physical environment."

Testa's total testament to Moholy-Nagy and the Bauhaus is a reminder that something important happened here in the 1940s—and it is still very much alive.