

## PRESS RELEASE

Valerie Hegarty  
Hotel Lobby, West Loop

Gallery 400  
Chicago, IL  
*An At the Edge: Innovative Art in Chicago* project  
December 10–December 21, 2002

Opening Reception: December 11, 2002, 4-7 pm

Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois at Chicago presents *Hotel Lobby, West Loop*, an exhibition and installation by Chicago artist Valerie Hegarty.

"Gesturing toward recent waves of renovation, demolition, and erasure, Hegarty will coat Gallery 400's walls with painted and torn layers of paper so the gallery shifts and blends into the site of a gutted hotel lobby," said Lorelei Stewart, director of Gallery 400. "This installation examines the conjunction of the utopian white cube gallery and the realities of present-day urban transformation."

Hegarty has exhibited at the Berkeley Art Center; Middlebury College Museum of Art, Middlebury, VT; and the Modest Contemporary Art Gallery, Chicago. She graduated with an MFA earlier this year from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she received a Trustee Scholarship and a John Quincy Adams Fellowship.

The project is the final part of the semester-long series *At the Edge: Innovative Art in Chicago*, which includes six one-person or artist-curated exhibitions. *At the Edge* unveils newly created works that are difficult to show in commercial spaces but extend a working artist's practice and push the boundaries of art experimentation.