

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO

Gallery 400 (MC 033)  
College of Architecture and the Arts  
400 South Peoria Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7034

**Arresting Images**  
"Art: A Warm Gun,  
A Wet Paintbrush"  
by Bill Stamets  
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## Art: A Warm Gun, A Wet Paintbrush

**G**allery 400 looks like a crime scene. The current exhibit is called "Arresting Images," but you might call it "Guns-It-Art," with all the sculptures of handgun, zip guns and toy guns. There's even a wall-mounted, homemade shotgun by Chicago sculptor Victor Ochoa.

"The fact that weapons are a fundamental part of our world and that they are beautiful objects leaves the door open for artistic investigations," Ochoa says. "I feel that the seductiveness of my art relates to the insatiable appetite for powerful images that our culture has."

A weapons also shows up in Maciej Toporowicz' "Self-Portrait With Knife," which suggests the vulnerability of both artist and audience to attack from behind, even in the safe-zone of a gallery. Or maybe this graphic photo is a pun on that cliché of art world hype—"cutting edge."

In her witty "Aphrodite Gesturing With Middle Finger" and "Artemis With Grenade," Anne Rowland reworks photos of classic Greek sculptures that lost their arms to ancient vandals. By tracing the outline of missing limbs, she warns, so to speak, these goddesses with a vengeance.

Other artists in this group exhibition explore terrorism with a teddy bear bomb, sexual violence with an aluminum-studded rubber dildo and electronic hostility with computer viruses. Brooklyn artist Michael Minelli examines the shotgun-in-the-mouth suicide of Nirvana star Kurt Cobain in an explicit mixed-media piece.

This weekend is your last chance to view this scary, serious exhibit at 400 S. Peoria, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free, and further details are available at (312) 996-6114.

**Bill Stamets, a Chicago free-lance writer**



Maciej Toporowicz' "Self-Portrait With Knife" is part of the Gallery 400 exhibit "Arresting Images," which closes Saturday.

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