

# Abstractionists' exhibit evokes urban visions

By J. Marc Mushkin

The exhibition of art from the group known as the Chicago Abstractionists, which opened last Friday night at the NBC Center, was conceived as a reaction to the art Chicago has been identified with for the last two decades—the Chicago Imagists. Because this background is probably irrelevant to a Lincoln audience unfamiliar with the work of the Imagists, it is a tribute to this show, called "Romanticized Structures," that the works stand on their own with all the impact they have been given credit for.

From the large sculptures outside the building to Ted Argeropolis' subtle white-on-white prints, the exhibition evokes everything distinctive about Chicago. The artists' concerns with rational structure seem to mirror the physical nature of Chicago—the tall, stark buildings practically erupting out of the blue field of Lake Michigan on one side and the midwestern plains on the other.

But even with the common roots, it is the individual statement of each artist that stands out.

The most striking works, if only for their size, are the first three you see before going downstairs to the concourse level of NBC where the rest of the exhibit is located. Outside the building is John Henry's *Jasper I*, a vigorous and impressive (37 feet long) sculpture. The aggressive red beams, interlocking but struggling for direction, manage to personalize Henry's impressions of the urban landscape.

On the other side of the building, Maryrose Carroll's *Cherniak* stands in a perplexing defiance of gravity as criss-crossing steel lines support an aluminum plane balanced on its corner. The interesting thing about this work is the activity Carroll injects into the angles and lines which are at once balanced, but also at odds with each other.

Above the staircase inside NBC is a favorite of mine, Larry Solomon's *Untitled*. The folding and interlocking pieces clearly evoke the architectural aspects of the city. Underlying this is the straightforward composition that hints at Solomon's view of man's power over the materials he builds with.

Ted Argeropolis' large oil painting, *Untitled*, is in my mind the most successful of the show. His bold geometric forms show the relationship between the rational structures of the modern urban scene and the freely creative spirit of the artist. Argeropolis' colors, forms, and composition all contribute to the tension he sees in this relationship.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

The wood and steel constructions in the show I found least accessible. Barry Holden's red neon *Ramp*, Dennis Kowalski's *Tularosa*, Paul Slepak's untitled steel works, and Mary Stoppert's wood and mixed media constructions all spoke to me more in terms of craftsmanship than vision, and I couldn't help finding them lifeless next to some of the vibrant and exciting paintings around them.

Highlighting the other works in the show: Tony Gilberto's untitled canvasses are beautiful uses of light and line on pastel fields. And Barbara Houskeeper's imaginative *Black Leek* also emphasizes light, but it is the light and color reflecting off the backs of her carefully arranged canvas strips.

I could go on; the works are, with only a few exceptions, sensitive but powerful, subtle but approachable. It is a fascinating and very important exhibition. One hint: see the show more than once (after all, NBC is just a few blocks away). A second viewing reveals so much more than just one.

Lincoln doesn't often get an exhibition of this caliber, so even though the atmosphere isn't exactly conducive to contemplating art—you could pick up a savings bond in between paintings—a visit or two would be highly profitable.

The exhibition, "Chicago Abstractionists: Romanticized Structures," will be at NBC until April 28.

daytime		THURS THRU WED	
<b>MORNING</b>			
6:00	BOZO NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY PTL PROGRAM VARIOUS PROGRAMMING ANSWER IS LOVE (WED.) Farm Report (FRI.) CBS NEWS	9:30 ROMPER ROOM HOLLYWOOD SQUARES PRICE IS RIGHT BEWITCHED WHEEL OF FORTUNE HAPPY DAYS (EXC. FRI.) Martha's Kitchen (FRI.) NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 3:30)	
6:05	FARM AND RANCH REPORT	10:30	RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING KNOCKOUT FAMILY FEUD LOVE OF LIFE FATHER KNOWS BEST NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY TO SAY THE LEAST \$20,000 PYRAMID YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS
6:10	NEWS	11:30	MAYBERRY R.F.D. GONG SHOW CONVERSATIONS RYAN'S HOPE SEARCH FOR TOMORROW HIGH HOPES IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 3:30)
6:15	UNO SCENE (WED.) ROMPER ROOM COUNTRY DAY SUNRISE SEMESTER VARIOUS PROGRAMMING BLINKY'S FUN CLUB	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	
7:00	ARCHIES TODAY CBS NEWS GOOD MORNING AMERICA I DREAM OF JEANNIE MORNING SHOW SESAME STREET FLINTSTONES MCHALE'S NAVY	12:00	FOR RICHER, FOR POORER NEWS NOON SHOW ALL MY CHILDREN JIM NABORS SHOW SESAME STREET
7:30	POPEYE GOOD MORNING AMERICA CAPTAIN KANGAROO FLINTSTONES IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 3:30)	12:15	FARM ACTION
8:00	LITTLE RASCALS CARTOONS 700 CLUB SANFORD AND SON ALL MY CHILDREN PASS THE BUCK PHIL DONAHUE SHOW NEW ZOO REVUE		

12:30	DICK VAN DYKE SHOW DAYS OF OUR LIVES CROSS WITS AS THE WORLD TURNS LUCY SHOW ONE LIFE TO LIVE MOVIE "Dark Venture" (THUR.), "The Man Who Reclaimed His Head" (FRI.), "Dr. Kildare's Crisis" (MON.), "Journey For Margaret" (TUE.), "State Dept. File 649" (WED.) IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 3:30)
1:00	BEVERLY HILLBILLIES DOCTORS GUIDING LIGHT PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES ANOTHER WORLD GENERAL HOSPITAL GOMER PYLE ALL IN THE FAMILY DENVER NOW MICKEY MOUSE CLUB FOR RICHER, FOR POORER EDGE OF NIGHT RAZZMATAZZ (THUR.) Match Game (EXC. THUR.) FLINTSTONES TOM AND JERRY GILLIGAN'S ISLAND PASS THE BUCK PHIL DONAHUE SHOW I LOVE LUCY MERV GRIFFIN (EXC. WED.) ABC Afterschool Special (WED.) KALAMITY KATE'S CARTOONS ELECTRIC COMPANY GILLIGAN'S ISLAND MY THREE SONS I DREAM OF JEANNIE DINAH SUPERMAN MIKE DOUGLAS MISTER ROGERS LEAVE IT TO BEAVER BEWITCHED BRADY BUNCH BIG VALLEY BRADY BUNCH (WED.) FAMILY AFFAIR SESAME STREET ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW ODD COUPLE ABC NEWS I LOVE LUCY ROOKIES NBC NEWS BEWITCHED CBS NEWS NEWS ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW OVER EASY



An all-star cast of distinguished international actors will bring a tragic period in history to life when NBC-TV presents the massive drama special 'HOLOCAUST' on 'The Big Event,' airing over four consecutive nights beginning Sunday, April 16.

# Ad lib

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