

"Organically Grown in the Midwest," an exhibit of paintings, sculptures, videos and installation art by eight contemporary Midwestern artists, opens today at the Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery at Purchase College.

The exhibition, on view through Nov. 24, showcases the range and dynamism of some of Chicago's young, hip artists. Curator Luis R. Maldonado, a master of fine arts student at Purchase, wanted to show how these artists express their views of post-modernism. Maldonado is a native of Wisconsin who has lived in Miami and Puerto Rico and recently studied in Illinois.

"Work that never ends" is the theme of Kristen Kleckler's sculpture. A resident of DeKalb, Ill., the artist positions a child's plastic slide over a fence ending in the middle of an enclosed space. "Endless Work to Nowhere" is a piece that is both witty and dark. Kleckler is fascinated by the way life's overlooked details are taken for granted, and she is inspired by the contradictions between people and their social structures.

War machines, including exquisitely detailed tanks and helicopters, are featured in the paintings of Burtonwood and Holmes. The works show breakthroughs in industrial design and efficient fighting tools.

Two videos by Andrew Riggsby layer images to create multi-dimensional space. The optical game causes viewers to see multiple images at once and allows them to rationalize the multiple concepts of reality.

Geoffrey Todd Smith creates highly detailed gel-ink drawings of linked systems that are connected with shapes. The installation by Jessica Rose Witte of DeKalb, Ill., lures the viewer toward a space that is both inviting and unapproach-

able — a pair of legs that lie on a dirty floor seem to be living.

Brian Taylor uses trompe l'oeil to create striking pieces that are finely crafted and require extreme patience and precision. Matt Irie's intricate moving shapes are drawings composed of written text from daily readings of post-modern theory. His work combines two extremes in art discourse to form a new hybrid.

Greg Beise's small painted blocks are interconnected and form intricate minimal designs along a wall. The blocks are meticulously painted on all sides with distinct lines and shapes that add allure to the complexity of the work.

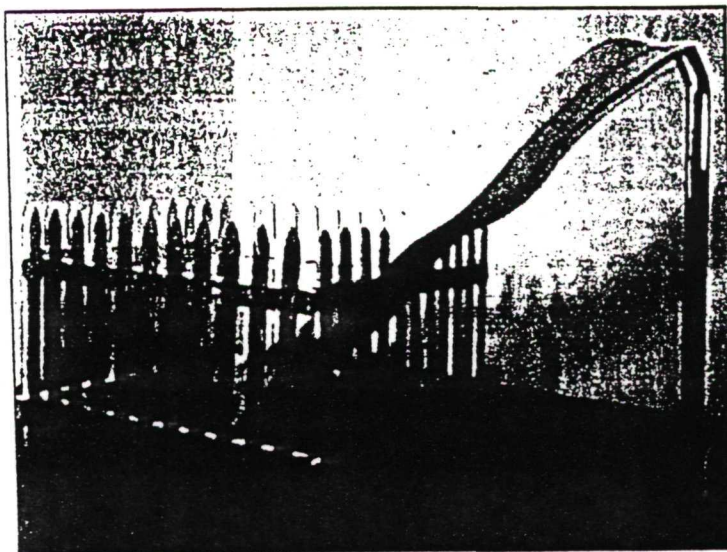
The gallery is in the School of Art and Design at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, N.Y.

Viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

88 — Greenwich Time, Friday, October 8, 2004 •

## THE ARTS

*'Organic' art from Midwest  
on display at Purchase*



Contributed photo

Kristen Kleckler's 'Endless Work to Nowhere' is included in a new exhibit at the Maass Gallery at Purchase College that features the work of artists from the Midwest.