



Sponsored by Inspire Fine Art and Lufthansa, the work of two artists Günther Schaefer, "Pictures from Two Millenniums" and Christopher Hauck, "Wall Art: Defining a Post Berlin Wall Culture", will be exhibited together for the first time ever in the US and premiers in Chicago. The exhibit portrays how a wall came down which had divided a country for decades. At the same time, the exhibit demonstrates how a world was opened and how graffiti and wall art became a means of expressing and documenting freedom, chaos, globalization and joining diverse cultures.



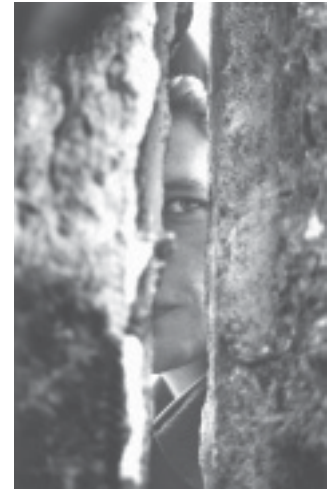
Almost immediately after the Berlin Wall came down in November 1989, 110 artists from eastern and western cultures joined together in Berlin in an effort to express, to discuss, to memorialize, to reunite and in the end to create the East Side Gallery, the largest open-air gallery in the world.

Günther Schaefer, a celebrated Berlin based photographer and painter is co-founder of the East Side Gallery and one of the original artists, creating a work titled "Vaterland" that was later featured on the cover of Newsweek. Schaefer will present a selection of his more than 15,000 photographs documenting the last 15 years after the Berlin wall fell.

Christopher Hauck, an Atlanta based photographer, painter and architect will present a 189 foot long digital photograph of the entire East Side Gallery as it stands today. The photograph, stitching together 350 frames initially shot in Berlin in 2005 has been constructed for this exhibit and will be displayed in its entirety, winding throughout Inspire Fine Art.

Like the artists that gathered to create the East Side Gallery, Schaefer and Hauck bring divergent perspectives but common passions to the exhibition. Schaefer brings the purvey of first hand experience of the East/West divide to the project. Hauck brings the perspective of the observer, having been emotionally and intellectually moved by the significance of shifting ideologies in the 90's, the transformation of a reunited Berlin culture and its impact on American culture.

An artist talk with Schaefer and Hauck is scheduled for July 27. It will involve Professor Michael Geyer, an invited scholar of German and European History from the University of Chicago, and will be moderated by Margaret Hawkins, art critic for the Chicago Sun-Times and ARTnews. Geyer brings in depth understanding of German history and the impact of the post Cold War Germany in the context of a globalizing world. Geyer will also offer his perspective on the significance of the East Side Gallery project and tease out the socio-political and cultural agents that are operating thru Berlin Wall art and which are evidenced specifically in the East Side Gallery project.



A Touch of Berlin in Chicago

The exhibition " [de] construction: Wall Art" Premiers in the US

The US tour of "[de] construction: Wall Art" will open on July 28, 2006 and will continue until September 10th 2006 before touring other US cities in 2006 and 2007.

inspire
FINE ART

Inspire Fine Art, River East Art Center
425 East Illinois Street, Chicago

Opening hours: Wed.- Sat. 11 AM - 6 PM; Sun. from noon - 5 PM
www.thewallart.com