



# SALVAGE

AN EXHIBIT  
AT THE PLANT

MICHAEL BOLSINGA | MARY ELLEN CROTEAU  
MIGUEL GUZMAN | CHYANNE HUSAR  
TRACY KOSTENBADER | ALEXANDRA LEE (ATYL)  
GARY LEHMAN | STEPHEN MANKA | LUIS SAHAGUN

ON DISPLAY JUNE 21 – OCT 19 2014  
1400 W. 46TH STREET | CHICAGO

*AnySquared Projects &  
G Studio presents*

**SALVAGE**  
Exhibition On Display  
Through October 19, 2014

**Gallery hours:**  
Saturdays 12-4pm

**AnySquared** is an artist collaborative and network headquartered in Logan Square's AnyWhere Space. Propelled by a deep sense of cooperation with our neighbors, AnySquared's all-volunteer members produce art events, projects and ongoing activities with the mutual support and participation of area artists and local businesses.  
**anysquared.com**

**G Studio** is a design and fine art studio in Chicago. Their work specializes in creating unique and creative experiences from outdoor gardens to paintings.  
**gstudiodesign.net**

Through paintings, sculptural pieces, photo-based works, and site-specific installations, *SALVAGE* explores the metamorphosis of materials, objects, and/or concepts into a new means. Each exhibiting artist reinvents and reinterprets materials or concepts within their practice. All are stimulated by the notion of transformation. Each of their works expresses different visions through conceptual methods, aesthetic tools, and/or through reuse of physical materials.

**Exhibit Page:** [anysquared.com/salvage.htm](http://anysquared.com/salvage.htm)  
*For more information email [projects@anysquared.com](mailto:projects@anysquared.com)*

### **SALVAGE exhibit and The Plant**

The Plant's strong principles of zero waste and sustainability in Chicago's historic Back of the Yards neighborhood makes it a perfect host and dynamic venue for the *SALVAGE* exhibition. It is also a inspiration for the participating artists -- providing a dialogue about our society's history of waste and its impact. The *SALVAGE* exhibit in the context of The Plant provides a forum to creatively review thoughts and considerations on waste in our culture and the possible transformation into something positive and sometimes beautiful.

### **Artists at the Plant**

Each artist for the *SALVAGE* exhibit was selected because their work relates to the principles of The Plant in some way. Most utilize materials, concepts, or subjects relating to reclaiming and repurposing items/thoughts/ideas considered as waste. Their works displayed together at The Plant and some made specifically for it with materials from the venue, seek to provoke discussion and reconsideration of our own thoughts of waste and reuse of materials. The Plant is a perfect forum for this discussion and has provided us the space to exhibit these statements.



## Exhibiting Artists

**Michael Bolsinga** is a self taught artist influenced by graphic design, political and rock posters, and pop art, Bolsinga uses acrylics and pen on various found medium to explore visual communication with patterns, colors and composition. Much of Bolsinga's work focuses on the Political and the Environmental, and society's reluctance/inability to make important decisions in both. His paintings have shown throughout the Chicago area and distributed nationwide. Bolsinga currently resides and works in the Avondale neighborhood of Chicago. | [michaelbolsinga.com](http://michaelbolsinga.com)

**Mary Ellen Croteau** is a visual artist whose work discusses current environmental topics often overlooked. She creates her work with materials removed from their eventual trip to the landfill. | [maryellencroteau.net](http://maryellencroteau.net)

"The function of the visual in consumer culture is to overwhelm and imprint, rendering us passive vessels for received wisdom. Vast databases of disconnected facts, driven by arcane mathematical formulae rather than by a creative or logical progression of thought, do more to confuse and disconnect us from the information we need to control our world than they do to facilitate it. My work is an attempt to counter this trend toward disembodied "intelligence."

I firmly believe in the power of the visual, and my work is my voice: a social critique and a visual challenge to all the cultural detritus we are force-fed every day. My art is about looking at things in a slightly different way, and is intended to undermine the status quo with wit and humor." — Mary Ellen Croteau

Mary Ellen Croteau is also supporter of artists through various projects including curation of her ongoing window gallery: Art on Armitage. | [artonarmitage.com](http://artonarmitage.com)

**Miguel Guzman** is a Chicago-based artist who works in a combination of digital printing, collage and paint. He uses his own photos in addition to appropriated photos. He prints his photographic images on unconventional surfaces such as aluminum, plexiglass, hand-made surfaces, cardboard, found papers and objects. He also incorporates paint as successive layers of transparent acrylic washes both before and after the printing. | [miguel-guzman.com](http://miguel-guzman.com)

"Nationalism, economic and military rivalry, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and environmental disaster are some of the subjects that find their way into my work. These works are an expression of both a sense of wonder and disenchantment with the state of the world."

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“While I take advantage of the flexibility that digital technologies give me in terms of what I make and how I can make it, I also feel a need for a strong human element, to work with my hands, for direct physical involvement with the work. This way of working keeps things engaging for me because merging the hand-made with the mechanical creates the challenge of balancing control with unpredictability.” — Miguel Guzman

**Chyanne Husar** is an explorer and creator who uses architecture and constructed form as a medium to bring awareness of social and environmental concerns to the public and future designers. | [husarchitecture.com](http://husarchitecture.com)

“It is by design that architectural systems can work in building communities and togetherness.” — Chyanne Husar

Recent projects include chiNAgo, an artist residency at the High Concept Laboratories exploring the impacts of rapid urban development on communities; and nÜwaste an exhibit for the 2013 Guerrilla Truck Art Show that explored closed loop waste cycles to create a localized model of sustainable food, waste, and materials.

Chyanne founded husARchitecture in 2010 as an outlet for her vision. Living in Versailles, France; New York, NY; Shanghai, China; has shaped her understanding of diversity and culture and the work continues to develop a palette that responds to the needs of the world around us. Focused on engaging the community, she resides in Logan Square, Chicago and works to incorporate local issues into our built environment.

**Tracy Kostenbader (co-curator)**, a visual artist, also has active role in developing Chicago art culture as her role as an arts organizer for AnySquared. | [tracykostenbader.com](http://tracykostenbader.com)

**Alexandra Lee (ATYL)** reinterprets materials by integrating and reinterpreting them in site-specific installations, collage, and other mediums. | [atyl.com](http://atyl.com)

“I work in a variety of medium, including photography, computer generated/3D images, sculpture, new media and video installations and painting and drawing, depending on the concept behind each piece and the best method of communication.

Generally, my work is about time and being, and the compulsions of day-to-day living and of love. It is about temporal versus eternal, the interrelation of art and science, and between humans and their tradition/beliefs within the environments they live.” — Alexandra Lee



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**Gary Lehman (co-curator)** is a visual artist and landscape architect. He deals directly with environmental issues and presents them with strong visual gestures. | [gstudiodesign.net](http://gstudiodesign.net)

“My work captures metamorphosis of memorable events and visions. The event, person or landscape is reinterpreted to grasp and extract the underlying emotional interaction. The process extracts the essence of the experience by revealing a raw emotional interpretation in a fluid use of line, form and color. Though the form and line are dominate, additional expressive layers with words or textures are added to refine the primary expression and tie closer to the memory.”



**Stephen Manka** is a public artist. He expresses his work in the public environment with strong architectural projects. | [mankadesignstudio.com](http://mankadesignstudio.com)

“Public Art is a form of Acupuncture. It amplifies our public spaces and our shared experiences in these spaces. My main goal with public art has been to provoke a meaningful engagement with the community. The concepts need to react to a specific place and the unique situations. This exploration unlocks an array of materials and techniques, which often means opportunities for new collaborations.”

— Stephen Manka



**Luis Sahagun** adapts reclaimed materials into interesting forms that undergo a building and destructive process. | [luissahagun.com](http://luissahagun.com)

“My passion lies in creating paintings, sculptures, and objects out of repurposed street rubble such as; cardboard, concrete, metal, and wood. I enjoy replacing traditional tools such as paintbrushes and palette knives with reciprocal and circular saws. The objective is to use destruction/demolition as a vehicle to pursue a personal and unique artistic mark.

In my cardboard painting series, I begin the process by habitually collecting cardboard found on the streets of my community. Once my studio is congested with material, I begin to meticulously stack and adhere it together, until large cube-shaped structures are formed. After the gluing process is completed, I use my power tools to deconstruct and disfigure the form. Deliberate cuts, tears, and slices are made to the surface with the ultimate goal being to develop a history that capsulizes and uncovers the materials physicality.”

—Luis Sahagun

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