

# Great idea translates to uneven show

Alan Artner, Tribune art critic  
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The introduction of sculptures and sound pieces into the Lincoln Park Conservatory has worked so well that I am sorry to say the works by Lucy Slivinski and Mark Booth are a come down, though that is not entirely the artists' fault. Slivinski's "Natural Order" is an immense openwork sculpture hanging above a small pond amid exotic flowers in the Show House. As has usually been the case in the past, the new piece is made from cast-off industrial materials, specifically the frames of aluminum lawn chairs and reflectors of both clear and colored plastic. Slivinski typically has joined unusual materials by weaving techniques used in fiber sculpture and basketry. A chief pleasure of earlier works has been the way she combines a freewheeling sense of "new" materials to venerable, tightly controlled form-giving techniques. In "Natural Order," however, the process looks loose, more random, thanks to the comparative recalcitrance of the chair frames, making the piece overall less pleasing and only imperfectly suggesting a delicate network that would make it look more at home amid the fragile growths all around. In short, it appears too brute for its setting, and that might have been corrected by re-siting it with more robust plants elsewhere. Booth's sound installation in the Fern Room is meant to be a kind of "conversation" between cicadas and insects. So in response to a drone produced by guitar strings altered in various ways are vocal sounds produced at the back of the human throat. The back-and-forth movement of the piece unfolds fairly gently without dramatic peaks or valleys. So one perceives its waves through long-term listening, which used to be subtly encouraged by the presence of benches. At my visit these were gone, and within an hour many visitors passed through the space without the least bit of lingering, missing the poetry entirely. At 2391 N. Stockton Drive, 312-742-7736. 10-person show through Aug. 30 at the Black Walnut Gallery Maggie Leininger and Matthew Cox through Oct. 19 at the International Museum of Surgical Science Lucy Slivinski through Sept. 23 and Mark Booth through Sept. 30 at the Lincoln Park Conservatory -----  
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