

ARC hetypes

As the holiday hustle and bustle draws to a close, and we sashay about like so many contented people, ARC Gallery is, as usual, blowing the roof off with activity.

The 24 year-old ARC (Artists, Residents of Chicago) will be reception central this Friday, as the openings of five shows are feted.

Raw Space, which is precisely that, will mount "Bedbook 3," by Iain Macchell. This gallery-within-the-gallery is devoted exclusively to installation art, three-dimensional work that is often, as is the case with "Bedbook," site-specific.

The Clothesline Project will occupy space in ARC, featuring a show that gives visual voice to the horror of violence perpetrated against women. Female survivors of such violence have designed shirts, intended to depict their individual stories.

Eve Mansdorf will show her work in another part of the sprawling ARC space, and the oddly-titled "Noncompliance in Parasites and Other Multicellular Creatures," by Melanie Feerst, will occupy yet another part of ARC.

Finally, Japanese artist Chiyeko Yuki will exhibit 27 austere works that, according to the artist, aim to feature "subtle, nearly imperceptible hints of a beauty imagined below the surface of things."

This show of paintings is slightly more than two months' output for Yuki, who has been painting for most of her life. She heard about the show in October, and got to work, painting right up to the deadline.



"Noncompliance in Parasites and Other Multicellular Creatures" is coming to ARC Gallery.

New Exhibits at A.R.C.:

"Breaking the Silence," New Works by Eve Mansdorf; "Bedbook 3," by Iain Macchell; "Noncompliance in Parasites and Other Multicellular Creatures," by Melanie Feerst; Recent Paintings by Chiyeko Yuki.

- Through Jan. 31
- 1040 W. Huron
- (312) 733-2787

Of the 27 works in Yuki's show, most of them are small, 7x7-inch squares. According to the artist, most are black, utilizing the many different shades of the color. Apparently, black is not *just* black.

These paintings straddle the line between an exhibition and an installation. While they are oil works on canvas, they also are meant to work

with the three-dimensional space they occupy, to evoke a mood, an appreciation of subtlety.

Yuki's statement cites *ichigo ichie*, a Japanese expression that means "the single encounter of a lifetime." Also evocative of the tea ceremony, this phrase, when applied to an artist's work, means that you must think as though each moment of the event is the only opportunity you will have to view the paintings.

In a sense, this is true. That initial moment, that reaction, cannot be duplicated, asserts Yuki, whose background is in teaching high school English in Japan.

This explosion of activity, while impressive, is nothing new for those familiar with ARC, which opens six new shows a month, focusing on emerging, innovative, and usually, female artists.

Kevin M. Williams

Iain Macchell's site-specific art installation, "Bedbook 3" can be viewed in ARC Gallery's Raw Space. The installation will be on display through Jan. 31.

