



**Tim Barber, *Untitled*
(Dive Board), 2004.**

"The Promised Land"

**Wendy Cooper Gallery, through
Jan 28 (see West Loop).**

Shall I watch a flabby Glen Danzig onstage with a receding hairline, or the half-naked dancing girls behind me? the young man in Tim Barber's photo seems to ask. Barber's image opens this group show on the theme of "The Promised Land."

With most group shows, theme often gets lost in the shuffle. However, the quality of the work here is so high that we can't be bothered to care.

Chicagoan Shona Macdonald's *Fractal* exhibits a refined drawing style. She gives us something akin to a surreal textbook diagram of vegetation using a beautiful color palette of pumpkin, maroon and sea-foam green.

An installation by the OODA Group, *Sailors Delight*, gives new meaning to the term *automatic drawing*. A weather balloon being blown around a room drags a black sharpie across the ground, creating an image that looks something like a topographical map.

Things take a mystical turn in the work of Kim Krans and Nancy Mladenoff. Krans provides mixed media in glittery tree sculptures and New Agey paintings. Mladenoff's large-format photos use dramatic angles to capture multicolored Play-Doh snakes coiling around magic mushrooms on the forest floor.

Dan Attoe's tiny painting *Slayer On Ice* provides comic relief as the band members try to coach the driver of their immobilized tour van to "try going backward!" Attoe's other microscopic work, *Prisoner*, is detailed with the precision of someone who has probably spent at least a few of his teenage years in the basement painting metal miniatures. Those were not wasted years.—Jason Mojica