

# SOPHISTICATED LIVING


{Chicago's Finest}





WALK THIS WAY

SHANGHAI ART OF THE CITY  
BEIJING ART OF THE CITY

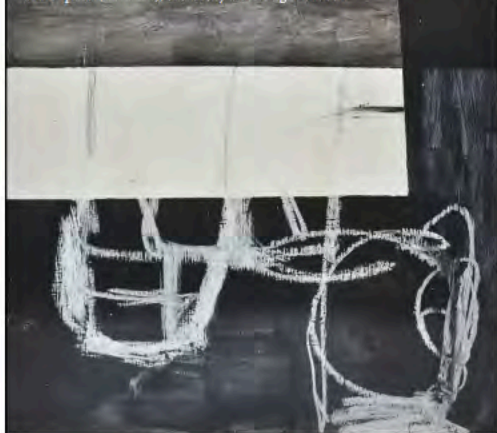


Thirteen showrooms and more than 16 artists are participating in this September's River North Design District Fall Gallery Walk. Shown here: A painting by Chicago artist Adam Siegel at Golden Triangle

Six of Chicago's most sought-after interior designers dish on the artists whose work they can't wait to see at the second annual River North Design District (RNDD) Fall Gallery Walk happening Sept. 9 from 5-9PM ([rivernorthdesigndistrict.com](http://rivernorthdesigndistrict.com)).

*By Elise Hofer Shaw*

#7, mixed media on board, acrylic paint and oil pastel (24" x 24"), \$2,400, by artist Greg Dickerson



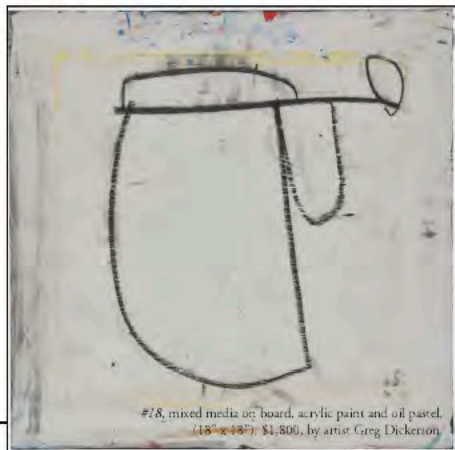
**DESIGNER:** Michael Del Piero, [michaeldelpiero.com](http://michaeldelpiero.com)

**ARTIST:** Greg Dickerson

exhibiting at *Ligne Roset*, 440 N. Wells St., Ste. 100s

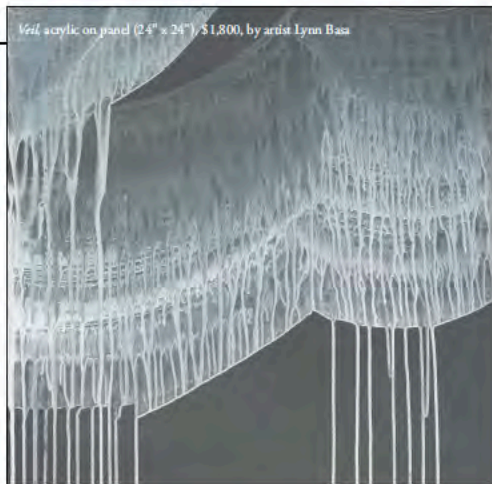


**TALK THE WALK:** "I like to combine different styles and genres of art into my interiors," says West Town-based interior designer Michael Del Piero. "Many of my clients purchase blue-chip art pieces by well-known, collected artists from various time periods. I like to build upon that mix with art from my travels and pieces by contemporary artists like Minneapolis painter Greg Dickerson. At first glance, Greg's work is simple. But look closer and you see that the movement is both captivating and emotional. His pieces have a primitive, textural quality that I'm drawn to for my shop and my design clientele. I find myself wondering about the shapes he uses in his work—are they objects? I don't know, but what I do know is that they make my heart skip a beat!"



#18, mixed media on board, acrylic paint and oil pastel (18" x 18") \$1,800, by artist Greg Dickerson

*Veil*, acrylic on panel (24" x 24"), \$1,800, by artist Lynn Basa



**DESIGNER:** Aimee Wertepny, [projectinteriors.com](http://projectinteriors.com)

**ARTIST:** Lynn Basa

exhibiting at *Jesse Home Element*, 745 N. Wells St.



**TALK THE WALK:** "Considering her reputation, you probably already know Lynn Basa's work," says East Village-based interior designer Aimee Wertepny. "But for those of you who have not had the great fortune to experience her spirit, here's the 411: Like a true artist, Lynn is always evolving through life experiences, pushing herself outside the box while staying true to her classical training in pursuit of reaching the tippy top of the artist world. When I met Lynn almost five years ago, I was obsessed with her black-and-white series and her experimentation with burning wax-covered paper. We've adorned our clients' walls with her pieces over the years, and I love the abstract storytelling of her work either reflecting her own journey or the journeys of our clients. The depth and movement in her layering process and the organic manipulation of the wax and paints dancing in the heat create the most breathtaking and vibrant encaustics."



*Orange & Gold 2*, acrylic on paper (22.5" x 22.5"), \$900, by artist Lynn Basa



*Duke (Dog)*, mixed media on canvas, archival pigmented ink and acrylic paint (54" x 69"), \$12,500, by artist Adam Siegel

**DESIGNER:** Nora Schneider, [noraschneider.com](http://noraschneider.com)

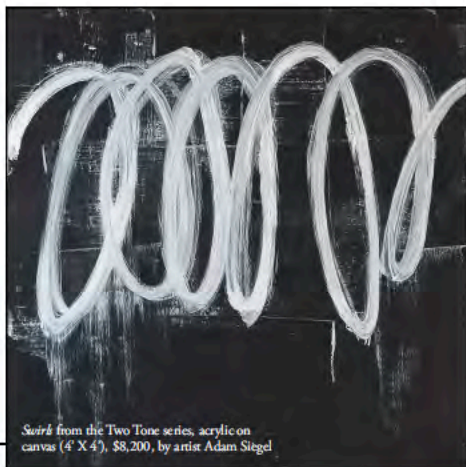
**ARTIST:** Adam Siegel

exhibiting at *The Golden Triangle, 330 N. Clark St.*



**TALK THE WALK:** "I first encountered Adam Siegel about 12 years ago while visiting his studio in Wicker Park," says West Loop interior designer Nora Schneider. "I went there at the urging of a client who had seen his work at the Around the Coyote arts

festival and purchased several pieces. I had an immediate and intense appreciation for his paintings. Since then, we've enjoyed collaborating on many projects, as well as developed a beautiful friendship. His ever-evolving use of form and color speak to me, and I personally own five of his paintings. In my work I like to mix ancient accents with modern elements. Siegel's modern-looking pieces have an old soul. They add so much, as well as fit right in."



*Swirls* from the Two Tone series, acrylic on canvas (4' X 4'), \$8,200, by artist Adam Siegel



*She Could Be Herself, By Herself 1*, mixed media on arches (26" x 40"), \$2,500, by artist Melissa Herrington

**DESIGNER:** Randy Heller, [randyhellerdesign.com](http://randyhellerdesign.com)

**ARTIST:** Melissa Herrington

exhibiting at *Chicago Luxury Beds, 440 N. Wells St., Ste. 100n*



**TALK THE WALK:** "Melissa Herrington is an exciting new find for me," says Highland Park interior designer Randy Heller. "Her paintings and mixed media on canvas fall somewhere between the figurative and the abstract. I love her works representing the female figure, as

well as the more abstract pieces. The neutral transparent stains and the carefully placed, opaque colors compel me to take a longer look and contemplate the artist's message. As a designer, I could see using a single work by Ms. Herrington as a decorative accent, or possibly lining up a whole series down a hallway. I intend to introduce her work to my current clients for their projects."



*She Could Be Herself, By Herself 3*, mixed media on arches (40" x 26"), \$1,800, by artist Melissa Herrington

*Singer*, photograph on watercolor paper (24" x 24"), \$500, by artist Robert Carlos Childress



*Untitled 17*, pastel and tempera on paper (25" x 19"), \$975, by artist Gale Gand

**DESIGNER:** Donna Hall, [dmondinteriordesign.com](http://dmondinteriordesign.com)

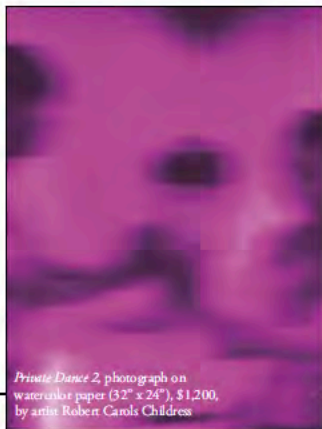
**ARTIST:** Robert Carlos Childress

*exhibiting at Moderne Living, 230 W. Huron St.*



**TALK THE WALK:** "The RNDD Gallery Walk gives you the opportunity to see the work of some of Chicago's most talented artists in beautiful showroom spaces throughout River North," says interior designer Donna Hall, who has studios in

both Old Town and Hinsdale. "My personal favorite is Robert Carlos Childress, who studied right here at Harrington College of Design. I love the ethereal quality of his style that is said to represent the way we store memories in our minds—blurred, in motion, with colors altered to represent our emotions. When I'm looking for statement pieces, a collage from Childress in a vibrant hue can be just what I need to add drama to a space. I'm personally drawn to the figurative subjects that make me feel like I'm seeing something I wasn't meant to see. It's that subtle eeriness, mystery and impact that make his work truly stand out."



*Private Dance 2*, photograph on watercolor paper (32" x 24"), \$1,200, by artist Robert Carlos Childress

**DESIGNER:** Susan Brunstrum, [sweetpeas-inspired.com](http://sweetpeas-inspired.com)

**ARTIST:** Gale Gand

*exhibiting at Jesse Home Element, 745 N. Wells St.*



**TALK THE WALK:** "Seriously, how does Gale Gand find time to paint?" asks Gold Coast-based interior designer Susan Brunstrum. "She's a pastry chef, restaurateur, author, teacher and mother! Not only is her work stunning, but the fact that she can

launch another career after decades of success in the culinary world is mind-blowing. And it's easy to be drawn to her art. I love that it is so colorful and a bit whimsical—I have a feeling she has a sunny disposition, a sense of humor and a way of confronting issues head-on. I'm also struck by the way her work feels so free-spirited, which is just the opposite of the precision she needs for pastry-making. Art truly seems like an emotional outlet for Gale, as well as a passion."



*Cookie Cutters*, pastel and tempera on paper (25" x 19"), \$975, by artist Gale Gand

## TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Take it all in with the RNDD Fall Gallery Walk's hour-by-hour schedule of events.

- 5:30PM** VIP Champagne kickoff party at The Golden Triangle featuring artist Adam Siegel
- 5-9PM** River North Design District Gallery Walk sponsored by Peterson Picture Company
- 6-7PM** Live art: Phillip Schalekamp creates charcoal drawings on paper at The Tile Gallery
- 8-10PM** After-party hosted by Cambria at The Chopping Block in The Merchandise Mart.  
*(RSVP is required at [rivernorthdesigndistrict.com](http://rivernorthdesigndistrict.com).)*

## MAP QUEST

Out of 13 total, five showrooms are new to this year's RNDD Fall Gallery Walk (in bold below).

Here's your at-a-glance look at the artists and happenings at each.

1. Lisa Caccioppoli on exhibit at Lightology, 215 W. Chicago Ave.
2. Lynn Basa and Gale Gand on exhibit at **Jesse Home Element**, 745 N. Wells St.
3. Live art by Phillip Schalekamp at The Tile Gallery, 555 N. Franklin St.
4. Sally Ko Sculpture on exhibit at Toto, 500 N. Wells St.
5. Melissa Herrington and Jaime Foster on exhibit at Chicago Luxury Beds, 440 N. Wells St., Ste. 100n
6. Michael Del Piero Good Design pop-up shop featuring Greg Dickerson at **Ligne Roset**, 440 N. Wells St., Ste. 100s
7. Marketa Sivek on exhibit at Studio 41, 225 W. Hubbard St.
8. Adam Thomas and Debra Balchen on exhibit at Montauk Sofa, 401 N. Wells St.
9. Natasha Kohli on exhibit at Organic Looms, 401 N. Wells St.
10. Darren Jones on exhibit at Oscar Isberian, 120 W. Kinzie St.
11. Adam Siegel on exhibit at **The Golden Triangle**, 330 N. Clark St.
12. Sally Ko Mixed Media on exhibit at **Farrow & Ball**, 449 N. Wells St.
13. Robert Carlos Childress and Francine Gourguechon on exhibit at **Moderne Living**, 230 W. Huron St.

## KEEP CALM AND CURATE

Daniel Kinkade, owner of **Daniel Kinkade Fine Art** ([danielkinkade.com](http://danielkinkade.com)), was the River North Design District's obvious choice for chief curator of the RNDD Fall Gallery Walk. "Daniel holds a degree in interior design, and that makes all the difference to us," says Walk founder Jill Maremont. "He understands interior spaces and how art impacts how we live. Daniel works with designers all over the country and Chicago's brightest stars, as well as big corporate names like Nordstrom and Starbucks. He has an amazing eye and is able to see a space and determine what artist is the exact right fit."

Now in his second year as curator, Kinkade credits several factors with determining how he paired the art with each design showroom. "For example, Toto has gorgeous windows and less wall space, so we chose beautiful Sally Ko sculptures to suspend from the

ceiling. Organic Looms, on the other hand, has rugs covering most of its walls, so we chose larger canvases that can serve as complements to the rugs that already act as art. Each showroom's offerings come into play, too. For Chicago Luxury Beds, a showroom where we all get lost in their wonderfully indulgent beds and the thought of relaxation, we went with artist Melissa Herrington's nude works that have soft colors, organic lines and a hint of romance."

"This event is important for the artists because it gives them exposure to a broader audience and allows them to showcase new works in the Chicago area in non-traditional venues," adds Kinkade. "And for the designers, it's great for them to be able to bring their clients into a showroom such as The Golden Triangle or Montauk Sofa and see art in context, in a 'living' setting."



## ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS

*Clockwise from top left:* Python boxing gloves in cream, \$1,575, by Elizabeth Weinstock, and Remola fur-trim suede bootie, \$1,775, by Manolo Blahnik, both at Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, 312.642.5900. Zebra linen pillow in yellow, \$350, at Jayson Home, 773.248.8180. Black and white calf-hair Warbler smoking slippers, \$140, by Birdies, available Oct. 2016 at birdiesslippers.com. Antler chair from a Bavarian lodge, \$3,800, at Architectural Artifacts, 773.348.0622. *Wolf* mixed media on canvas, archival pigmented ink and acrylic paint (81" x 54"), \$16,500, by artist Adam Siegel and available by calling 773.615.0099. *Segunda Piel*s photograph, from \$135, by Miguel Vallinas at YellowKorner, 872.315.2179. Snake Ring 2 featuring a 2.42-carat CanadaMark diamond, \$20,000, by Diamonds Unleashed by Kara Ross at diamondsunleashed.org. (Every sale of this ring provides two scholarships for girls in low-income areas for secondary education.) Dragon's Tail table lamp, \$729, by Hive at Lightology, 312.944.1000.



Photos by Mariah Karson



**ADAM SIEGEL STUDIO NIGHT**  
Chicago artist Adam Siegel hosted more than 220 friends, clients and fellow artists for cocktails and conversation at his 5,000-square-foot studio in the Fulton Market District. Partygoers previewed the latest work from Siegel's Palimpsest series, enjoyed food by OrganicLife and sipped bubbles courtesy of Champagne Henriot. Special guests included politician-cum-restaurateur Alexi Giannoulias, publicist and art devotee Carrie Lannon and president and director of EXPO Chicago Tony Karman. —TM

1) Mary Pat Wallace, Michelle Balaz and Katrina Whittcamp 2) Kari and Seth Damstadter 3) Shakha Jain and Maria Kim 4) Susan Brunstrum, Laura Barnett and Jill Maremont 5) M.P. Wilson and Lauren Ross 6) Jagu Patel and Thomas Bassett 7) Adam Siegel and Tony Karman