

# Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA)

March 28, 2003

**Section:** Preview

**Edition:** Home; The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**Page:** Q6

## VISUAL ARTS: **Campus Sit-In**

Diverse, provocative creations stand their ground at Emory

*CATHERINE FOX; Staff*

### REVIEW

"The Chair Project"

Through April 17. Emory University campus. 404-727-6315.

Free maps available at the Schwartz Center, Fishburne Drive; and the Visual Arts Building, 700 Peavine Creek Drive; or online at [emory.edu/arts](http://emory.edu/arts). Free tour 11 a.m. April 5; meet at the Fishburne entrance to the Schwartz Center. Vito Acconci will give a free lecture on his work at 7 p.m. April 8 in the Reception Hall of the Michael C. Carlos Museum.

The verdict: Lots of fun.

Get out your walking shoes. Awaiting you at Emory University is "The Chair Project," a delightful exhibition of sculptures organized in honor of the opening of the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts.

In contrast to the *modus operandi* of the "All-Star Ball" debacle of 2000, for which artists painted giant baseballs to put in public places, and the upcoming Cow Parade (for which artists will paint fiberglass animals), those who organized this juried competition asked artists to think creatively about the form of an everyday object rather than decorate one given to them. The result is, well, 37 works of actual art.

And very diverse ones, to boot. Some artists, like Atlantan Kerry Moore, scale their chairs up to Brobdingnagian proportions, while others, such as former Atlantan Kipp McIntyre, deconstruct them. They use an array of materials, from the tar covering Linda Armstrong's chairs to the 1,000 pounds of river rock with which Canadian artist Celeste Roberge filled a steel cage shaped like a chaise longue. Atlantan Lynne Moody endows her colorful piece with the sound of jingly bells.

Similarly, the pieces provoke a variety of reactions. Atlantan Ann Rowles' bosomy anthropomorphic mesh chair induces a laugh, while GSU professor George Beasley's trompe l'oeil bronze director's chair is dead serious. Positioned so that it faces a polluted creek, Beasley incites the visitor to "Sit, See, Understand, Act." New York-based Vito Acconci's sofa and chairs, made of fluorescent tubing, are, shall we say, illuminating.

As exhibit organizer, Armstrong, who teaches in the Emory visual arts program, did a great job of siting the works. She has distributed them so that people all over campus can encounter, and often be surprised by, them. Their presence serves to point up spots of natural beauty around the campus and the university's pedestrian-oriented improvements. Toby Martin's handsome large-scale chair, made of hundreds of openwork discs welded together, is framed by a cluster of blossoming trees on a grassy open area near Woodruff Library. Nearby, Ruth Laxson's wood and metal chair is tucked into a wooded ravine, visible through the library windows.

Tired? Take a seat behind Cannon Chapel in one of the colorful and imaginative chairs that Carrollton artist Gordon Chandler fashioned of cast-off metal. But you won't even be tempted to sit on Amy Landesberg's ironic, conical contribution. It's titled "Hard to Find Comfort." Get the point?

Photo: Janelle Iglesias (left) and Joy Drury Cox are dwarfed by "Big Adirondack," a wooden behemoth by Atlanta artist Kerry Moore / SHINY SHINY / Staff

artist Kenny Moore./ SUNNY SUNG / Staff

Photo: Janelle Iglesias (left) and Joy Drury Cox sit on a chair that's part of the campuswide exhibit at Emory./ SUNNY SUNG / Staff

Photo: Atlantan Lynne Moody's "Musical Chair" is made of wood, cloth and metal, including jingly bells./ SUNNY SUNG / Staff

Photo: "The Lion Tamer" is by former Atlantan Kipp McIntyre./ SUNNY SUNG / Staff

Photo: "(M) Emory Desks" was made by Valerie Watkins and Julie Newton out of wood and paper./ SUNNY SUNG / Staff

Photo: Gordon Chandler of Carrollton welded the colorful "Arrangement for Emory" out of cast-off steel./ SUNNY SUNG / Staff

Photo: You can't sit in them, but you sure can dream about the objects in "The Chair Project," an inviting exhibit at Emory. (Teaser)

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