



Tiny Art Exhibition at Art\*Bar

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to find creative works for holiday gifts.

Every year, viewers find an array of styles ranging from picturesque landscapes and still lifes of solitary fruits, to abstractions, illustration and others that eschew traditional subjects. Overall, there is a high degree of quality of two-dimensional work, though seemingly fewer sculptures and three-dimensional pieces than in the past. For those interested in utilitarian objects, there is an array of ceramic pieces such as teacups. Interestingly, this year's "Mini" exhibition seems to have a touch more of an edge and angst than in years past with a greater number of political and socially focused pieces.

There are noted artists who continue their presence in the exhibition, such as Mike Kasun and his singular paintings of birds. Fred Bell, with quiet still lifes, and Ari Rosenthal with photographic abstractions, are other established names in this field of work.

Some artists work on unconventional materials such as Jenny Anderson's surrealist sketching on the green-lined paper of a restaurant bill. These sorts of things seem ripe with stories of the imagination, but largely do not seem like personal statements of the artists. The works in this exhibition are generally intended to connect with the viewer, appealing to their sense of aesthetics or reflecting a common memory or idea. This is a show of art that indeed wants to come home with you for the holidays.

Through Dec. 31 at Art\*Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St.

**VISUALART | PREVIEW**

**'30 Flirty + Thriving' at After Gallery** ::BY TYLER FRIEDMAN

**S**ome of us spend the month before our 30th birthday brooding on the inexorable march of time and the irretrievability of our youth. With "30 Flirty + Thriving," Chicago-based visual artist Caroline Liu has channeled the angst of aging to more productive ends by pairing with 30 different artists to create as many collaborations in the month preceding her 30th birthday. The collaborating artists span the states and range in media from music to street art to tattoos and beyond. While Liu's vivid colors, repeating patterns and exceptional gift for realistic representation are in evidence, she leaves ample room for her collaborators' unique visions.

Memorializing life's junctures is an especially important practice for Liu, who, in 2012, suffered irreparable short-term memory loss after a solid wood door fell directly on her head. Her artistic practice thus became more than a means for self-expression, it became a form of therapy geared towards holding onto memories that she would otherwise lose.

"30 Flirty + Thriving" opens at Riverwest's After Gallery with a reception 7-11 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8. The exhibition is on display through Feb. 8.



Caroline Liu & Nick Fisher, *A Comfortable Place to Wait*, mural installation, 2017

**"Jaime Hayon: Technicolor"**

Milwaukee Art Museum | 700 N. Art Museum Drive

Spanish artist and designer Jaime Hayon studied industrial design in Madrid and Paris and, since dedicating himself to his own projects in 2003, has won renown as, in the words of a few effusive magazines, "el gurú del interiorismo" and "le conquistador du design." In "Jaime Hayon: Technicolor," Dec. 8 through March 25, 2018 at the Milwaukee Art Museum, visitors will experience the vibrant visions, at once modern and classic, of Hayon's sculptures, ceramics, textiles and playground equipment.

**"Watercolor Wisconsin 2017"**

Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts  
2519 Northwestern Ave., Racine

Since 1966, devotees of aqueous media have made an annual pilgrimage to the Racine Art Museum's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts for "Watercolor Wisconsin." Now celebrating its 51st anniversary, "Watercolor Wisconsin" remains the premier exhibition of Wisconsin watercolor works. This year's jury is comprised of Christina Haglid (Senior Paper Conservator and Manager for the Art Conservation Department at Joel Oppenheimer Gallery, Chicago, Illinois) and Tom Herzberg (freelance illustrator and long-time member of the U.S. Air Force Art Program), who jointly considered 261 works by 148 artists before narrowing the show to 104 works by 75 Wisconsin artists. The Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony for "Watercolor Wisconsin 2017" takes place 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10.