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Art

Today's weather ☀️ 60°

Michael Zelehoski, "Objecthood"

Zelehoski plays perceptual tricks with 3-D objects turned 2-D. *By Paul Laster*

★★★★★ *Time Out Critic*
 ★★★★★ *Users (0)*

Categories
 Art, Painting, Sculpture

Keywords
 Free

Christina Ray, through Oct 10



A master craftsman, Michael Zelehoski deconstructs found objects made from wood and reassembles them on flat planes, to reference both the real world and the realm of artistic illusion. Collapsing such three-dimensional items as furniture, boxes and pallets into two-dimensional pictures, the Massachusetts artist creates a new perspective for viewing everyday things. Cutting the appropriated, weathered articles up into hundreds of fragments, Zelehoski bonds them together with painted pieces of plywood to construct uncanny, life-size puzzles.

Picnic Table presents an aged, white table and benches floating in a black rectangular field. The point of view is from underneath, and as the parts come together, you perceive a Dadaist, off-kilter structure at play. *Do Not Cross* offers a pair of NYC police barricades that ironically do exactly what they instruct you not to do—they overlap on a white plane to create the cobbled-together vision of a propped-up cross awaiting a crucifixion. Meanwhile, *White Table* and *White Shelf* drift against their dark backgrounds like dreamy thrift-store objects, longing to be used.

Strangest of the eight pieces on view, which are all from 2010, is *Chair*. Directly confronting the viewer, the rugged, rectangular seat is flattened, as if a steamroller had run over it while it shouted, "Remember me!" Captured in a minimalist, woodworked maze, *Chair*, along with the rest of Zelehoski's utilitarian subjects, has been rescued from the junk pile and transformed into a marvelous work of art.

September 20, 2010

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