



Image courtesy of Stephen Chalmers

Stephen Chalmers' "Transience," a project of photographs of snowbirds and those who use RVs as permanent residences, exhibited at the Chase Gallery.

On the Wall

JENNIFER ZURLINI

Spokane Visual Arts Tour

Tonight, 5-9 p.m., free

Most exhibits continue Saturday; see listings

Spokane plays host to its best known artists and those emerging on the art scene tonight and tomorrow in its much anticipated and ever expanding fall Visual Arts Tour, a cultural mainstay for 20-plus years.

Twice yearly, First Friday gives way to the Visual Arts Tour, which showcases contemporary works by regional artists in art museums, downtown galleries, alternative spaces, and a handful of places north of the river.

During Spokane's monthly First Friday art walks, you will visit galleries and alternative spaces to view new artwork.

The additional Visual Arts Tour venues, added for this weekend only, tend to be edgy and artsy, lending an architectural backdrop and cultural bent to the paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, photography, and other media on exhibit.

This year's tour enhances the visual arts with performing artists including musicians, poets, DJs and pod casters. Wonderground is breaking new ground with "Terrain," a multi-media art show featuring all the above mentioned artist types and 15 emerging visual artists on three floors of an old bank building at 120 N. Wall St.

The building's enormous vault, with a wall of floor-to-ceiling mirrors, showcases paintings on vinyl records juxtaposed with the sounds of DJ Cos McDust in the Vault Lounge.

Works on the fourth floor will have a quieter, more contemplative focus, and large paintings on the first floor will be hung above the heads of the hundreds of attendees who have already RSVP'd on Facebook. All are welcome to revel in the arts until 1:30 a.m., no RSVP required. The museum shows include The Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University; The Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture in Browne's Addition, as well as its Kress Gallery Art at Work extension at RiverPark Square; and Whitworth University's Lied Center for the Arts in the new visual arts building's Oliver Gallery. Mobius Kids, the Children's Museum, is hosting a fundraiser, "Mixing at Mobius" tonight at \$40 per ticket. There is definitely something for everyone tonight.

Spotlight on:

Stephen Chalmers

Transience
Chase Gallery
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Interesting to be both a psychologist and an artist. The meaning behind things

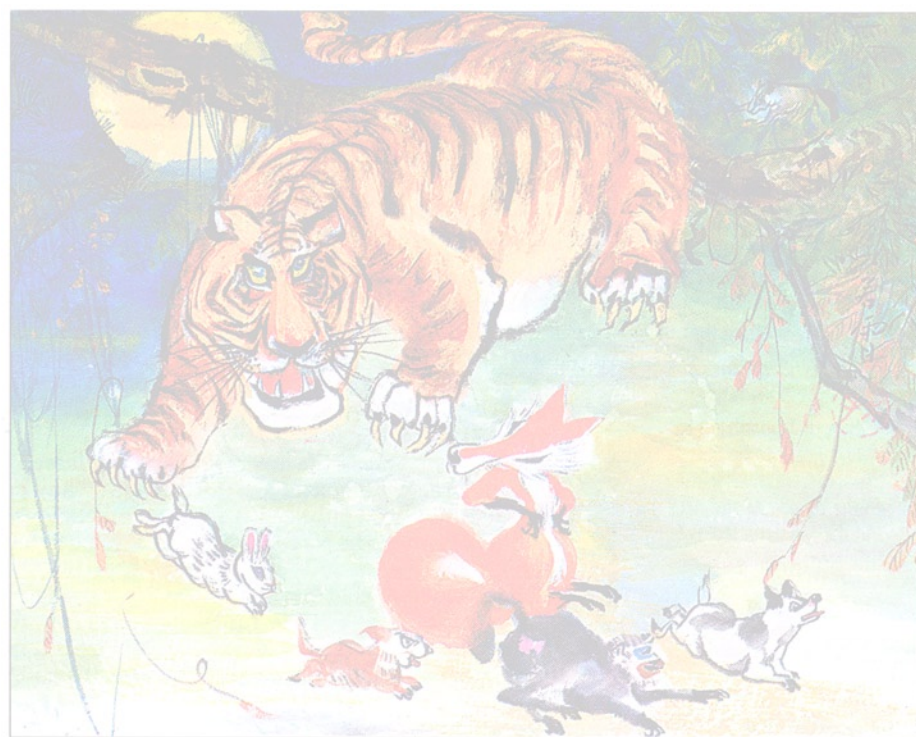


Image courtesy of the artist

Chinese sumi brush painting by Ji Ruoxio. Exhibited at the MAC.

becomes the subject in many aspects. Not saying that most thoughtful artists aren't doing this to some degree, too.

"Transience" is a photography project of Stephen Chalmers, degreed in psychology, photography and cinema, that focuses on inhabitants of recreational vehicles: snowbirds, retirees, and transients.

"Although designed as a temporary travel home, the RV has also become primary residence for many people of limited means," said Chalmers. "They make permanent homes for themselves in RV parks, on the public lands maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, or 'squatting' off the grid in the desert southwest."

Chalmers' subjects read as historical American character studies. It wasn't specifically the artist's intention to do this; but just as a landscape artist doesn't intend to paint promise into daybreak, or a portrait artist doesn't intend to capture history; he does.

His "Transience" series entraps the

thoughts, feelings and attitudes of his subjects at that fleeting, split-second moment that the shutter opens and lets in all the light and shadow that falls before it, as they sit posed in their transitory spaces.

Shadow is where I tend to read what's in the minds of Chalmers' subjects. Their fears, their shame, their pride, their stoicalness.

Light is the atmosphere surrounding them, and Chalmers' lighting is sunny and warm, illuminating their accommodations and encapsulating all that they need to survive: beds, a roof over their heads, their coffee cups, plates, utensils, laundry lines, a place to sit, books, a place to read. For the most part they are clean, tidy, and have accumulated more stuff than what fits nicely onto their shelves.

The snowbirds appear as if they've got it made, yet the looks deep within their eyes and plastered on their faces say something altogether similar to the school of the Stoic.

The show runs through October.



Image courtesy of the artist

"Human Harp (Past Tense)" by Nick Darcourt, displayed at Trackside Studio.