

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Richard L. Rodriguez, Commissioner



News Release

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ILLINOIS RIVERS RUN THROUGH O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Photo exhibition in Terminal 5 carries viewers along the Illinois Waterway

CHICAGO – O'Hare International Airport is hosting a photo exhibition featuring several large-scale images from the acclaimed book *A River Through Illinois*, created by journalist Gary Marx and photographer Daniel Overturf. The exhibit presents a unique blend of portraits, landscapes and panoramic 360-degree photographs taken along the Illinois Waterway.

"We are pleased to display this visually striking and engaging exhibit at O'Hare," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "Travelers passing through the airport will be able to view Illinois rivers and their immediate surroundings from a unique perspective."

A River Through Illinois is located in the west corridor of International Terminal 5 beyond security. The exhibit includes several seven- and eight-foot-long panoramic views of rivers throughout the state, as well as portraits of individuals. The subjects of Overturf's images include sportsmen, bridge tenders, hotel and restaurant operators, workers, deckhands and river captains. The images take viewers from the urban landscape of Chicago to Illinois' most rural areas. Several of the images depict places most people have never been — three hundred feet below the city into Chicago's "Deep Tunnel" and into the wheelhouse of a towboat pushing a quarter-mile clutch of barges.

"The staging of this particular exhibit represents an entirely different way of seeing our work and the culmination of eight long years on this project," Overturf said. "Gary and I are very excited to be a part of the art program at O'Hare."

Marx's commentary, which accompanies each photograph, provides short stories or detailed information about the river. In some cases his text provides a lyrical interpretation of the photographic image.

"Bringing the exhibition to O'Hare will allow thousands of people to experience a slice of the Illinois Waterway," Marx said. "Airport terminals and waterways connect people, so O'Hare is the perfect venue for this exhibition."

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Overturf is an associate professor and former chair of the Department of Cinema and Photography at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His photographs have won numerous awards, and he has worked as a photographer and teacher in New Mexico, Kansas, Nevada, and Alberta, Canada.

Marx is a writer and editor and an award-winning journalist now with the Kansas City Star. He has worked as a reporter, editor and columnist at several newspapers in the Midwest.

Chicago's airports have long served as a canvas for the City's world-renowned arts programming. The Department of Aviation invites artists, cultural institutions and non-for-profit arts organizations to participate in a variety of exhibition opportunities at the airports through the Chicago Airport System Art and Exhibits Program.

An exhibit featuring more than 40 posters from internationally acclaimed jurors of the 2008 Chicago International Poster Biennial Association (CIPBA) poster design competition is now on display in the east corridor of Terminal 5 at O'Hare.

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The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.



Photo caption:

This is one of the many captivating photographs currently on display at O'Hare International Airport as part of a photo exhibition, *A River Through Illinois*. The exhibit features several large-scale images from the acclaimed book of the same name by journalist Gary Marx and photographer Daniel Overturf.

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