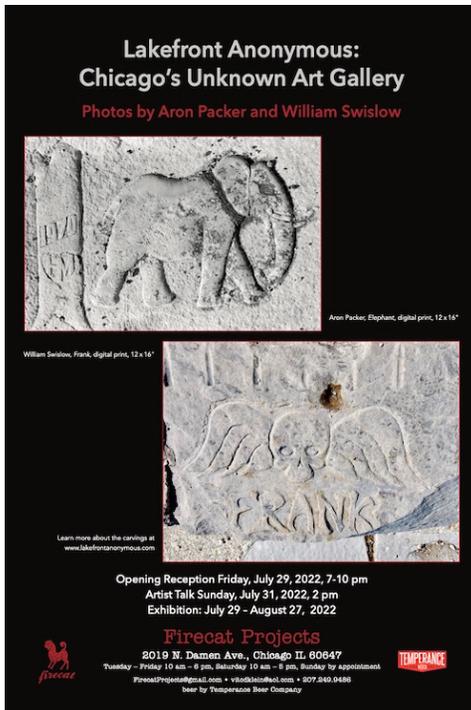


Lakefront Anonymous: Chicago's Unknown Art Gallery Photos by Aron Packer and William Swislow

A celebration of one of the world's great art treasures:
The thousands of rock carvings that lie hidden in plain sight along
Chicago's Lake Michigan shore

Opening reception Friday, July 29, 7-10pm
Artist talk Sunday July 31, 2 p.m.
Exhibition continues through August 27, 2022

Firecat Projects
2019 N. Damen Ave.
Chicago, Illinois



Aron Packer and William Swislow have spent three decades documenting the thousands of rock carvings that line Chicago's lakefront yet are largely unrecognized by the public. Made over the course of nearly a century and ranging in size from a few inches to several feet, these urban petroglyphs constitute both a collective work of art and a spontaneous social history of Chicago at play. Like most art environments, though, this 22-mile-long monument to summer fun is under constant threat from the weather, neglect, and unsympathetic government projects.

Their recently published book, *Lakefront Anonymous*, tells the story of these carvings, their mostly unknown makers, and the lakefront where the carvers left behind a rich visual legacy. This exhibit features some of the more than 200 photos from the book by Packer and Swislow, which will be available for sale, as will the photos.

William Swislow, a longtime journalist and a founder and former executive at Cars.com, is a writer and art collector who operates the cultural website interestingideas.com. He has written for art publications including *Raw Vision*, *Folk Art Messenger*, *The Outsider Magazine*, and the *SCA Journal*, and he sits on the boards of *Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art*, and the *Society for Commercial Archeology*. His photos of the American roadside have been featured in a number of publications.

Aron Packer has more than 25 years of experience as a Chicago gallerist, with a focus on contemporary art and expertise in folk and outsider art. He has staged more than 200 exhibitions over the years. He currently works as a fine art specialist at Toomey & Co. Auctioneers and curates exhibitions at various venues. His photos of city's lakefront art were featured in a solo show at the Chicago Cultural Center in 1992.

Contact Bill Swislow at bill@interestingideas.com or [872.216.6730](tel:872.216.6730) for more information or go to www.lakefrontanonymous.com.

For high-resolution versions of these images please visit <https://www.lakefrontanonymous.com/lakefront-anonymous-image-page/> or contact Bill Swislow at bill@interestingideas.com or 872.216.6730.



Locations, left to right from top: Montrose Harbor (lost), Oakwood Beach, Foster Avenue Beach, Morgan Shoal, Montrose Harbor (lost),