

OCTOBER 2013
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO GO®

Chicago

Where

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MAKING A SPLASH

Behind the scenes
with Blue Man Group

CHICAGO
ARTISTS' MONTH

DRINK & PAINT:
THE NEW NIGHT OUT

4 RESTAURANTS
THAT KNOW ART

CHOCOLATE IS KING
AT NAVY PIER



 Chicago

where now

Paint the town red with art, culture, food and nightlife

» ON THE TOWN

The Heart Of Art

In such a vibrant and diverse city as Chicago, there's art all around all the time—and we love that. But once a year for a full month, the city goes all out for Chicago Artists Month, pulling together more than 200 events, exhibits, performances and tours that put the local artists and art organizations squarely in the limelight. This year also adds a focus on the neighborhoods, with specific events taking place in a different area each weekend, curated by a resident artist.

Pose with the sculpture people of "Borders," a 26-sculpture exhibit by renowned Icelandic artist Steinn Thórarinnsson.



Food is as artful as the setting at Fame

FLIRTING WITH FAME

When an HGTV designer and graffiti artist were consulted to create a bar, anything could have happened. The result, however, isn't so avant-garde that it's unapproachable. Wicker Park's **Fame** maintains art as its focal point, with a mural woven between framed pieces of art by street artist AIKO, who lent her talent to Louis Vuitton's spring summer 2013 collection, painted The Bowery Wall and has taken her inspiration from Hello Kitty, butterflies and vixens. And then there's HGTV's "Design Star" season four winner Antonio Ballatore, who envisioned a space that felt like an artist's studio. In the corner, a DJ pumps up the scene as patrons sip on fruit- and bacon-infused cocktails. The menu is light and shareable. 2015 W. Division St., 773.227.1110, www.chicagofame.com



Get your artist out (coaxed by a drink or two)

Creative Juices

These Chicago spots marry painting with boozing, so even if your Van Gogh is a no go, you can cheers to the company of friends.

>>It's 3 pm, and your fellow conventioner designates you the social chair. What to do. What to do. Boat cruise? Did that the last time. Fancy steakhouse? Too formal. Whirlyball? Tough to explain in three words. And then there's **Paint Nite**, a two-hour artist-led "workshop" (yet more laid back) hosted at various bars throughout the city. Venues include **Fado** (100 W. Grand Ave., 312.836.0066, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29—all at 7 pm), **Redmonds Ale House** (3358 N. Sheffield Ave., 773.404.2151, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29—also at 7 pm) and more. Simply buy your tickets at www.paintnite.com (\$45) and they'll supply the canvas, paints, brushes and smock. The fee does not cover food or alcohol, but with specials such as three for \$10 apps and \$5 Heineken deals, you can pool for a cheap night and bring home your own piece of Chicago.

>>It's nippy outside. Though your first instinct might be to disappear into a pub, Chicago has more ways to warm up the body, and the soul: BYOB art studios. The city's most established ones—**Bottle & Bottega** (2900 N. Lincoln Ave., 773.313.9133 and 1241 S. Michigan Ave., 773.269.7570, www.bottleandbottega.com) and **Art & Spirits** (1921 N. Damen Ave., 773.772.3877, www.artspirits.com)—engage guests to swap bar stools for art stools. You pay the fee (typically \$25-\$45), tote the wine and uncork your inner artist via various subject matter such as the Chicago skyline. No experience necessary, and there's an instructor on hand to walk you through. Online registration and prepayment required.