

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2009

## **Chazen Presents Exhibition of Prints, Collages, and Installations by Nicola López**

Madison, Wisconsin— From October 17, 2009 through January 3, 2010, the Chazen will exhibit the twisting, jumbled topography of artist Nicola López. One might be tempted to call her a landscape artist, but not in any traditional understanding of the words. The works in *Nicola López: Urban Transformations* are not pastoral rural scenes but unpredictable urban worlds built with the imagery of debris from our manufactured, technological world.

López's artwork ranges from small prints and collages to larger-than-life installations. Her primary media are drawing, intaglio, woodcut, and photolithography. She prefers drawing and printmaking because they reflect both the trace of the artist's hand and the automation and mass production we rely on to create our modern world. Her works are complex; she mixes media and often constructs three-dimensional collages and installations from cut-out and repieced prints. By reconfiguring the urban environment López creates a wondrously messy and dizzying new place. Her works are exaggerated and many-layered, a cumulative territory reflecting cycles of building, demolition, and rebuilding. Her perspective often puts the viewer in the center of this tangled landscape, immersed in the refuse of cast-off and reused objects.

In *Nicola López: Urban Transformations*, a satellite tower morphs to resemble an expansive gnarled tree; televisions and ductwork and blacksmith hammers seem to swirl away as if caught in a tornado; rampant pipes and girders proliferate along the wall, spilling onto the floor, and their contents pour out to feed flowers that spring up to claim the territory. The cityscapes can be disorienting, yet the artist provides signs to read the landscape. The artist sees her work as a deeply personal antidote to the on-demand consumerscape; it represents the "attempt at as an individual to come up with a system of navigating this overwhelming landscape instead of simply consuming one." The power to transform is critical to the artistic process, and also to human experience.

An illustrated exhibition catalogue will be available for purchase in the Museum Shop.

### **Events**

- **PREVIEW RECEPTION AND ARTIST TALK**

**Friday October 16, 5:30 p.m.** Nicola López will talk about her work.

**6:30–8 p.m.** Opening preview reception for *Nicola López: Urban Transformations*. Music by Tapas Musicales. Refreshments and a cash bar.

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Generous local support for this exhibition has been provided by the Chazen Museum of Art Council, Hilldale Fund, Brittingham Fund, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Digital images of exhibitions can be found at [http://www.chazen.wisc.edu/pr\\_pictures.asp](http://www.chazen.wisc.edu/pr_pictures.asp)

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The Chazen Museum of Art is open Tuesdays–Fridays 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission to galleries and educational events is free. Museum Shop summer hours are 11–4 Tues.–Sun. The museum is located at 800 University Avenue on the campus of the UW–Madison and is accessible to wheelchairs from the north entrance (best reached from Park Street). Parking is available at the city of Madison’s Lake Street and Frances Street ramps. Evening and weekend parking is also available under Grainger Hall with entrance on Brooks Street between University Avenue and Johnson streets. The Chazen will provide sign language interpreters for associated programs by three-week advance request to Anne Lambert, Curator of Education, weekdays, (608) 263-4421 (voice). Information is also available by visiting our Web site at [www.chazen.wisc.edu](http://www.chazen.wisc.edu).