

5 SHOWS TO SEE NOW

1

**SARAH BECKSTROM**  
Gallery S

*The 25-year-old Chicagoan hit the road with a camera, putting herself into the American landscape.*

2

**FREDERIC BRENNER**  
Spertus Institute

*This half-documentary show features a good-natured, witty, absurd look at representations of American Jews.*

3

**CHUCK CLOSE**  
Museum of Contemporary Art

*If this isn't the greatest retrospective of a living artist obsessed with the human face in the history of mankind, it's at least Close.*

4

**"THE ARCHITECTURE OF GRAHAM, ANDERSON, PROBST AND WHITE"**

Chicago Architecture Foundation  
*Diagrams, photos and sketches reveal the minds behind the Merchandise Mart, the Civic Opera House, the Wrigley Building and other Windy City landmarks.*

5

**SUSAN COOLEN**  
Lallak + Tom Gallery

*Take a dead baby bird off the street, freeze it, then photograph it around your yard, like Susan Coolen did, they call you an artist. Do that with a live bird, they call you a criminal.*

→ **Gallery S**

SARAH BECKSTROM, "Seeing Don Juan: Images from an Open Road," black-and-white photography. See Tip of the Week. "The Space Between Your Thoughts," installation of music, words and projected images. Through Aug 2. "Landscapes, Cityscapes and Scenes for Your Spirit," black-and-white photographs from Europe, the Middle East and Central America. Through Aug. 677 Wrightwood, (773)472-5100.

SARAH BECKSTROM



Forever trying to find herself through photography, 25-year-old Chicagoan Sarah Beckstrom took off on the great cross-country road trip with her camera and Carlos Castaneda's Don Juan fables. Cherishing the moments when there was only "me and space," Beckstrom filled the void opened up from the absence of society by shooting herself in different guises that she invented as her feelings were piqued—tough black-hatted gunslinger, wild waif of the plains and Rocky Mountain hippie. In her most ambitious piece, "Seeing Don Juan," a 7'x8' grid of black-and-white photos cast in foreboding gray and mixing harsh landscapes, self-portraits and shots of cropped body parts, Beckstrom effectively evokes a sense of danger, isolation bordering on desolation, and adventure. Never the victim, this post-feminist intuitive performance photographer is as macho as Jack Kerouac or Robert Frank. (Michael Weinstein)

*Sarah Beckstrom's exhibit runs through August 31 at Gallery S, 677 West Wrightwood, (773)472-5100.*

TIP OF THE WEEK