

## Exhibits springing back into top form

By Lauren Viera, Tribune reporter

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Spring is nearly here, and with slightly warmer temperatures and the chirping of birds, we're happy to welcome the return to regularly scheduled gallery exhibitions and lots of art, both old and new, well worth seeing.

Can you feel it?

The intimate West Loop space shared by EC Gallery and **Kasia Kay Art Projects** (215 N. Aberdeen St., 312-944-0408; [kasiakaygallery.com](http://kasiakaygallery.com)) is quickly winning a place in my heart as a go-to space for interesting, well-curated exhibitions of up-and-coming artists. Following EC's lovely introductory show for Polish painter Justyna Adamczyk, her first in the U.S., Kasia Kay is showing new work by one of its resident artists, Tennessee-by-way-of-Chicago artist Duncan R. Anderson.

To call Anderson a sculptor would be a bit misleading, so let's call him a miniaturist. His media is mixed: figurines, plastic animals, pin-size beads, tiny toy daggers, log cabins and campfires painstakingly constructed from twigs and shellac. Walking into the exhibit is like walking into a quixotic little world of models and curios where fantastical creatures crawl up the walls and knights in shining armor meet their ends at the edge of imaginary forests.

Anderson creates three-dimensional work fabricated mostly by other hands: he repurposes everything from princess dolls to toy shotguns, sometimes in the same piece, to achieve his desired effect. They're successful because of the one immaterial object that brings them to life: narrative.

That knight in shining armor, for example, is leaning a bit too heavily, almost painfully, over the limbs of a crippled fir tree dusted with snow, positioned neatly on the edge of the platform that supports them both. This piece's title: "It's not supposed to end like this. It doesn't end like this.' (blacking out at edge of Winter Teutonic forest.)" Pretentious? Perhaps. But it works: These words so poignantly describe what Anderson's characters are going through, what we all go through. *Through March 20*

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