

Charles Timken

Mechanical



The McLean County Arts Center presents ***Mechanical***, an oil painting exhibition by Charles Timken in the Armstrong Gallery, October 31 – November 29, 2014.

To create the oil paintings in the exhibition ***Mechanical***, Charles Timken explored the junk and scrap yards of the Midwest. His complex compositions of crushed & rusted metal, colorful peeling paint, gears, springs, & unnamable mechanical parts move between abstraction and fine representational detail. In the painting *Deere John #2*, Timken zooms the composition in focusing on part of an intricate mechanical system of a tractor. The pleasing colors, lines, planes, and shadows overwhelm the quieter questions of what is this and what did it used to do. Conversely, Timken zooms out in another painting, *Compact Cars Only*, to show a cube of crushed cars offering thoughtful reflections on utility and waste. The subject matter of defunct machinery in the ***Mechanical*** exhibition initiates a myriad of surprising considerations about the act of painting, the advancement of technology, the ecological burden of humans, and more.

Charles Timken, a “Master Pastelist” of the Pastel Society of America, has been exploring oil painting for the past several years. Timken, of Lincoln, Nebraska, worked for Nebraska Public Television for almost 30 years as a designer/illustrator and as the Art Director. He has won several awards for his work and exhibits nationally.

This exhibition was generously sponsored by Charlette & Roger Elm and Elizabeth & Walt Clark