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## Tragic Beauty

Juan Chavez, Mike Genovese, Cody Hudson, and Chris Silva

March 4 - March 27, 2005

Open End Space, 2000 W. Fulton #310, Chicago



Tragic Beauty, as envisioned by Juan Chavez, Mike Genovese, Cody Hudson, and Chris Silva, recently transformed Open End Space into an engaging and innovative environment of found materials, natural elements, and multi-media constructions. These various installations have now been reassembled on the street where installations are taking on added dimensions and new meanings.

Tragic Beauty was a site-specific installation at Open End Space. Selected for its high ceilings and large open areas, Open End gave the artists the freedom to create work on greater scales without limitations. The flexibility at Open End allowed the artists to create an alternative space rather than fill a given space. The artists had the ability to produce an art installation that uniquely co-functioned as a set, a stage, and a venue.



Through innovative use of found material, the space examined the dichotomies that exist in everyday living-revealing creation within destruction, hope within despair, and beauty within tragedy. An assembled shipwreck provided a platform for bands to perform and added a musical component to the month long show. Bands and artists that performed during the Tragic Beauty music series were Ulrich Schnauss (City Centre Office, Domino) [Germany], Montag (Carpark) [Canada], Kate Simko, Panthers (Vice), Zombi (Relapse), Pit er Pat (Overcoat Recordings, Thrill Jockey), Icy Demons (Cloud) & Babyteeth. Also djing at the opening reception were, Tony Janda, Qualls, Ben Fasman, and John Herndon .

Juan Chavez, Mike Genovese, Cody Hudson, and Chris Silva share a belief in the intersection of art and life and the potential for art and experience. They have established themselves as individual artists both in their studio work and their public work. Each artist pursues an individual career while maintaining strong ties and interests in collaborative work. Together, the artists of Tragic Beauty have backgrounds in street collaborations, graffiti, public art, graphic design, sign making, painting, and gallery installations. Their work reflects a unique urban consciousness and understanding. For them, this project provided an opportunity to expand the scope of their work and the scope of their audiences.



- [www.tragicbeauty.org](http://www.tragicbeauty.org)
- [www.mudstudios.com](http://www.mudstudios.com)
- [www.genovesestudios.com](http://www.genovesestudios.com)
- [www.struggleinc.com](http://www.struggleinc.com)
- [www.chrissilva.com](http://www.chrissilva.com)





[delocator.net](http://delocator.net) is an online database project that creates a comparison between the amounts of local independently owned cafes and Starbucks retail stores within a specific zip code. By comparison of numeric quantity and site-specific detail, the user will see evidence of unchecked aggression and power that corporate businesses have in our communities. The site is also a free online space for independent cafe goers and owners to promote their cafes by uploading local café information to the delocator.net database. The creation of other delocated database-driven web sites is encouraged. On the delocator web site, users are able to download the code necessary to establish a new database, prompting more sites and databases that may focus on other specific retail stores (fast-food, hardware, clothing, etc.). delocator.net will be launched with the intention of becoming a web-meme, sprouting many future de-located corporate stores. This project is a collaboration between the collective Finishing School and Vasna Sdoeung.

delocator.net was launched on March 31, 2005 in the form of an exhibition at San Francisco Art Institute's Walter and Mc Bean Galleries, located on the main campus at 800 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA 94133, USA. The exhibition includes both the virtual and physical launch of delocator.net and an installation that explores concerns with the increased presence and tools to combat transnational corporations in local socio-economic spaces. Please contact the Exhibitions and Public Programs at SFAI for more information by calling 415-749-4564 or email FS at [contact@finishing-school.net](mailto:contact@finishing-school.net).

Finishing School ([www.finishing-school.net](http://www.finishing-school.net)) is a collective identity that enlists tactical media to investigate the many intersections between educational models, critical theory, and covert and common everyday activities. FS projects attempt to demystify cultural production and redefines viewers as active participants engaged in a learning process. Vasna Sdoeung ([tranzicmedia.com](http://tranzicmedia.com)) is a web programmer living and working on the world wide web.

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