

**Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski****'Body' of work from artist and athlete**

Over the past year the Steeple Gallery has exhibited the works from Chicago artist Christina Body.

Chicago native, Christina Body, received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and minors in photography and theater from Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale. She was also an art and athletic scholarship recipient at SIU.



Photo provided to the Star  
**Christina Body works quite a bit with oil paintings** At top "Elevated View" is an oil on canvas; below is "Snow Blanket," an oil; at lower left is "Survivor" and above left is "Rush Hour," both also oil paintings.

She continued her studies at the American Academy of Art and The Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago and under the tutelage of renowned artists David Leffell, Ken Auster and Henry Yan.

Body's inspirations consist of notable artists Winslow Homer, John Sloan, Robert Henri and Nikolai Feshin. She paints in oils both 'en plein air' (outdoors) and in her studio from sketches, oil studies and photographs. "I am inspired and

fascinated by the qualities of light and the endless variations in color and temperature that it reveals. Painting en plein air is an emotional and spiritual experience. Capturing brilliant light and its radiance in the natural and built world leaves me feeling clear, elated and ethereal all at the same time." Body paints en plein air through the seasons in Chicago and also finds inspiration painting the tropics with extended stays in Jamaica, Key West, Florida and her travels abroad.

Body's award winning paintings have earned her participation in juried shows and national plein air painting competitions and invitational's, including '2008 Door County Plein Air Festival, Door County, Wis. and '2007 Plein Air Easton', in Easton, Maryland.

Most recent awards include "Best of Show" at the 65th Annual Salon Show, in Munster and two "Honorable Mentions" at the Cedarburg Plein Air Painting Festival, in Cedarburg Wis. In May 2008, Body's solo exhibition "Chicago in a Blink" at The Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts was reviewed by Chicago Art Critic Alan Artner in the Chicago Tribune — a first for The Palette and Chisel Academy in 100 years. Her work has been published in American Art magazine and is included in Northwestern Memorial Hospital's corporate art collection in Chicago. Body is a founding member of the Plein Air Painters of Chicago, a member of Oil Painters of America and International Plein Air Painters and an Artist Member of The Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts, in Chicago.

Her work hangs in corporate, public and private collections worldwide.

Body is represented by Stone Soup Gallery, Key West, Fla., Sacred Art Gallery, Chicago, Ill., Gallery 30 in Gettysburg, Pa., and The Steeple Gallery. Her works are on line at [www.christinabody.com](http://www.christinabody.com). To visit in person, visit The Steeple Gallery in St. John, call (219) 365-1014 or e-mail Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski at [samowner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:samowner@sbcglobal.net).

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MANAGING EDITOR

*Kimberley Mathisen*

[kmathisen@post-trib.com](mailto:kmathisen@post-trib.com)

**Classified and Subscriptions**

(219) 663-4212

FAX: (219) 663-0137

**Office location**

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