

# Area artist Nathanael Gray to open exhibit in Chicago

By the WPD staff

F.D.  
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Wabash artist Nathanael Gray will exhibit a series entitled, Monuments at the Elephant Room, Inc. Art Gallery in the South Loop neighborhood of Chicago July 26 to Aug. 28.

Monuments is a series of paintings and 3-D boxes based on Gray's explorations of three closed factories in Indiana; Borg Warner of Muncie, BPB Celotex of Lagro, and Delco Remy of Anderson.

He was initially drawn to these complexes because of their visual shapes and the mystery of the now motionless structures. As he continued to paint and explore the factories, he began to hear the conversations in town about the people who had worked there and had lost jobs just short of retirement.

In his paintings, the structures are motionless, but the stories of these once bus-

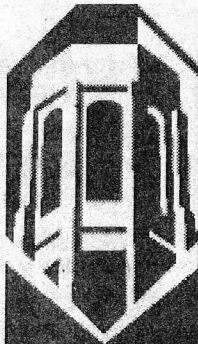
ting factories can be felt. Gray has built three boxes for each factory which contain multiple paintings within each one. These structures are monuments to the factories that are now rendered impotent. They are tombstones representing the death of these once working factories.

"The tombstone has no function and says virtually nothing about the person whose life it represents," Gray said. "It doesn't say if they were good or bad, and

it doesn't say whether they deserved to live or die. They simply make us pause and remember that something once was that now isn't. They are important."

There is an opening reception from 6 – 9 p.m. Friday, July 30, and an artist talk at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 31. The closing reception is from 7 – 9 p.m. Friday, August 27.

Gray oversees the Hoosier Salon gallery located in the Charley Creek Inn in Wabash.



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