

For Immediate Release

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**Tools and hardware provide inspiration for *UN/Useful*,
an exhibition of paintings, prints and transfers by
Tracy Kostenbader. Don't miss the opening event at
Logan Square's noFriction Cafe on Fri., June 15, 6–8:30pm.**

Chicago | Friday, June 15, 2007 from 6–8:30pm noFriction Cafe hosts an opening event for *UN/Useful: New Works by Tracy Kostenbader*. *UN/Useful* includes a mix of paintings, drawings, block prints, screen prints, and transfers that elevate the ordinary with an occasional bit of humor. Inspired by images of tools and hardware, this exhibition explores of ideas about work, life and transformation through activity.

Up for one month, *UN/Useful* runs **Friday, June 15 – Sunday, July 15**. At the edge of Logan Square, noFriction Cafe is located at 2023 N. California in Chicago (*south of California Blueline stop, off the California and Armitage buses, just north of Armitage*). For more information email tracytoast@earthlink.net or visit <http://home.comcast.net/~tracytoast>.

This project is partially supported by a Community Arts Assistance Program grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

what Opening Event for *UN/Useful* an exhibition of new paintings, transfers, screen prints and block prints by Tracy Kostenbader featuring snacks, beverages and classical guitar by musician Cirilo Pano Pino.

where noFriction Cafe, 2023-A North California, Chicago, Illinois 60647
773.278.7170 (noFriction Cafe phone)

when **opening event:** Friday June 15, 6–8:30pm
duration of exhibition: Friday, June 15–Sunday, July 15

noFriction hours: Tuesday–Friday, 6am–8pm;
Saturday–Sunday, 9am–5pm; Closed Mondays

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For press only: For high resolution images see enclosed CD. Medium resolution images available online at <http://home.comcast.net/~tracytoast/pressroom.html>

“Work, home, place, politics, and the life of inanimate objects compel me to make images, drawings, paintings and prints. Elevating the ordinary with an occasional bit of humor, my work continues to be a celebration and critique of the everyday. Using common images combined with words or a series of related images, I experiment with how juxtaposition shifts meaning or function.”

“The *UN/Useful* series includes portraits of tools, hardware and other objects. Some utilize stylistic inspiration from religious iconography to portray very concrete and earthly objects as icons worth worshiping. Others are psuedo-instructional diagrams layered over the images. Many of the pieces contain various “un” words (unafraid, unoccupied, undeceived, unleashed, etc.) combined with the images to describe, through negativity, positive concepts of what to be. Another part of the series includes pieces that are tool-oriented in the process making them (for example using tools to carve away the negative space in the block prints). Overall, this series has an eye on the themes of work, life and the struggle against inhibition.”

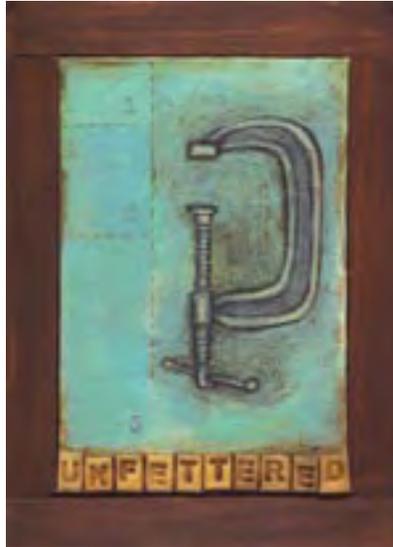
—Tracy Kostenbader

Bio:

A graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Tracy Kostenbader is an artist, activist and part-time freelance book conservator. As an artist-activist, she’s contributed concrete assistance to a variety of social change campaigns through visuals, organizing materials and participation. For six years, she organized a life drawing class out of her Logan Square studio that offered guidance and a supportive environment to those beginning to draw and provided practice space for those more accomplished. She has also hosted informal studio visits over the years and has pieces in individual collections locally, nationally and internationally.



Unoccupied, 2007, acrylic, pencil and clay on canvas, 5.5"X7.5"



Unfettered, 2007, acrylic, pencil and clay on canvas, 5.5"X7.5"



Unshamed, 2007, acrylic, pencil and clay on masonite, 5"X7"



Unbroken, 2007, acrylic, pencil, paper and clay on masonite, 8"X10"



Unbeliever, 2007, acrylic, pencil and clay on canvas, 5.5"X7.5"



Untainted, 2007, acrylic, pencil and clay on canvas, 5.5"X7.5"



Tools, 2007, heat transfer onto canvas, 9.5"X7"



Screws, 2007, block print, ink on paper, 4"X4"