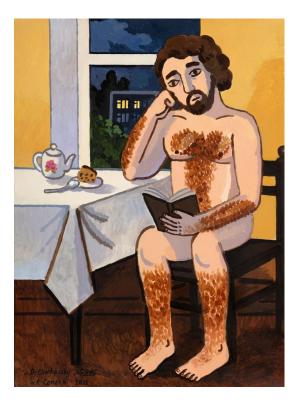
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Fall Museums Guide: Art Across Hyde Park

Max Blaisdell - August 21, 2025



Zoya Cherkassky, The Loner, 2025. Courtesy of Zoya Cherkassky.

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society

5701 S. Woodlawn Ave.

On September 25, the Neubauer Collegium will open "Zoya Cherkassky: The Global Political Crisis," the first solo U.S. show for the Soviet-born Israeli artist since her recent move to Long Island.

The exhibition gathers five acrylic paintings, about 50 watercolors and a single erotic sculpture, all staged against the backdrop of what Cherkassky calls the "dubious luck" of living through two wars — Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine — in quick succession.

"When the guns speak, the muses must fall silent," Cherkassky said in a statement, describing her ambivalence about making art in the midst of horror and her simultaneous impulse to retreat into the intimate, although, as she said, "the personal is political too."

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That retreat takes form in works like "First Date," where a mustachioed man in briefs clinks glasses with a topless woman in heels, or "Capital After Globalism," in which a nude reader sprawls on the grass as bathers wade through a stream.

For Neubauer Collegium curator Dieter Roelstraete, these playful scenes don't signal withdrawal so much as a reframing.

"At a time when political and cultural leaders seem to have very clear ideas about what art should say and do, Cherkassky's turn toward an old-fashioned and mostly lighthearted art erotica is understandable," he said in a statement.

Rather than mere escapism, the clash between the show's ominous title and its risqué imagery points toward a "new politics of pleasure," Roelstraete continued.

The show runs through January 9, 2026.