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HYDE PARK HERALD

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.