



Mara Baker: Chameleon Blind – Uptown Public Art Installation

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 8, 4:00 to 7:00 pm

[4620 N. Broadway Ave, Chicago IL 60618](https://www.chicagomarket.coop/4620-n-broadway-ave-chicago-il-60618)

5:30 pm: Artist Talk

6:30 pm: Walking tour of Clifton Avenue Street Art Gallery

Chameleon Blind is an ongoing series combining metal, light and fiber processes to create multi-dimensional "light paintings" for public display in underused and temporarily vacant storefronts throughout the city.

Mara Baker in collaboration with **Chicago Market** and **Uptown United** is pleased to present a new public art installation titled **Chameleon Blind – Uptown**. Located in the historic Gerber Building, adjacent to the Wilson Red Line station, the work is housed in 16 windows and is designed to be viewed from the street. The work will remain on view while the building lies vacant in preparation for the opening of Chicago Market. This is Baker's largest work to date, and is generously hosted by Chicago Market and funded by Uptown United.

There will be a reception inside the Gerber Building on Saturday, February 8th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, with an artist talk at 5:30 pm and a walking tour of the Clifton Avenue Street Art Gallery Murals at 6:30 pm. Cider and light refreshments will be courtesy of Chicago Market business Owner, **Earth First Farms** and local business owner of **kal'ish** and **Sam & Gerties** restaurants. **For info and RSVP visit:** https://www.chicagomarket.coop/chameleon_blind_uptown_public_art_opening.

Designed to be visible 24 hours a day the installations light up each night at dusk allowing commuters and pedestrians an opportunity to experience the work as it transforms from day to night. The project collaborates with Chambers of Commerce, local governments, and property owners across the city to site the work in vacant storefronts.

The overarching goal of the project is to create new opportunities for the community to engage and access contemporary art outside of traditional gallery settings, while fostering connections to support and promote local businesses. In 2020, Baker will install Chameleon Blind in neighborhoods across Chicago including **West Town, Six Corners, Humboldt Park, and more.**

Mara Baker is a Chicago-based interdisciplinary artist and educator. Combining traditional fiber processes, animation, light and video, Baker's work draws inspiration from the phenomena of optical illusion and the changing of our eyes perception of light, color and space. Baker received an MFA in Fiber from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally including Chicago, New York, Santa Fe, Minneapolis, Budapest and Toronto. Baker is Associate Professor of Fine Art at the College of Dupage.

For more information about the project and artist please visit marabaker.com.