

# Holograms illuminate museum

**MUSEUMS**  
By Gilbert Jimenez

**I**t's amazing what a laser, a few beam splitters, an interesting photographic subject and a plate of photographic emulsion can create.

We're talking holograms here and there's really nothing quite like the assortment on exhibit at the Museum of Holography, 1134 W. Washington. The institution is a combination of holographic museum, school and research center.

A hologram basically is a photo-

graph of an object illuminated by one of a pair of split beams of light emitted by a laser. The trick is that while one beam lights the object and is reflected onto unexposed film (or the viewer's eye), the second light beam is passed around the object to shine directly on the film or eyeball.

Because of the wave properties of light, the second beam interferes with the reflected image of the first and the viewer ends up seeing a three-dimensional image that appears as real as the original object.

"When you say the object is recorded three-dimensionally, as man sees it in its natural environment,

people find it difficult to visualize that 3-D image [because] they have been so programmed to photography, television and movies," said Loren Billings, the museum's executive director.

"But when you make a hologram of a glass of water and put the hologram under a microscope, even the organisms are visible. When people look at a hologram, they are amazed and impressed. They're magical," she said.

At the museum, viewers are treated to a delightful array of holograms of faces, mechanical devices, landscapes, squiggles, shapes

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and forms. Some seem to recede three-dimensionally into their flat backgrounds, others eerily project forward toward the viewer and seem to float in space.

Some of the most bewildering effects involve clear, rotating cylinders illuminated from within.

They show separate holograms arranged in sequence to give the illusion of movement to, say, a small human figure that seems to rotate to allow front, side and rear views.

You don't need to understand how holograms work to revel in their magic, but if you want to learn, the museum offers guided tours. For those who want to learn to make holograms, the museum offers a series of beginning to advanced classes in holography, photochemistry, and geometrical and physical optics.

Museum hours are 12:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission: \$2.50 per person, \$3.50 for an assisted tour. Group tours with lecture can be arranged on advance notice. Call 226-1007 for information.

131 photos in the exhibit show the design flexibility of earth as used in domestic and religious buildings in Mauritania, Senegal, Morocco, Niger, Mali, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The exhibit will continue through Sept. 7.

At 5:30 p.m. today, the "After Hours: Films at the Field" series will continue with "The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith," an Australian-New Zealander tale of a half-caste aborigine who, after enduring a life of racism, murders the family of his employer and then takes off on a bloody flight across New South Wales. The adjacent Convito Italiano cafe will offer food, refreshments and music.

The Field Museum (922-9410), Lake Shore Drive and Roosevelt Road, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission: families, \$4; adults, \$2; students, youths 6 to 17, \$1; seniors, 50 cents. Thursday admission is free.

**ARTY FACTS:** Here are notices about cultural high points this weekend. Call the institutions for

- At 10:30 p.m. tomorrow on WCIU-Channel 26, art historian and author Richard Love's "American Art Forum" television program will host Pegram Harrison and Rudy Pozzatti of Echo Press in Bloomington, Ind., along with Karen McCready of Crown Point Press in New York in a discussion of contemporary printmaking.
- The Museum of Contemporary Art, 237 E. Ontario, is looking for a few good volunteer guides to lead tours. Training provided. 280-2697.
- Tomorrow is Bard Day at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington. At 11 a.m., actors from the Chicago Shakespeare Company will use scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and two sonnets to bring the Bard to life. Suggested for ages 5 to 11 years.
- At 2 p.m., it's "Love, Shakespearean Style" as the actors compare Shakespeare to modern American playwrights Thornton Wilder and Neil Simon. Ages 12 years and up. 346-3278.