

**Bill Frederick: *Here Comes Trouble***



**May 18 – June 29, 2012  
College of Lake County  
Robert T. Wright Gallery**

## Bill Frederick: Here Comes Trouble

The College of Lake County's Robert T. Wright Gallery is not risk adverse, in fact in this case, we welcome trouble! We are pleased to present the exhibition *Bill Frederick: Here Comes Trouble*. Chicago based artist, Bill Frederick, paints watercolors and brush and ink works on paper that have an unsettling effect upon the viewer. As a representational painter, Frederick is aware that he is not depicting objective reality, but rather reinterpreting what his senses perceive. This process may emphasize parts of an image while down playing other areas. The artist has said, "My work expresses my preoccupation with friends and family, history, geography, and a nagging sense of dread."

That "nagging sense of dread" especially comes through his black and white work *Cooling Tower*, where a dilapidated and defunct nuclear cooling tower rises ominously above an auto junk yard. This is a juxtaposition of two aged symbols of energy; one is nuclear and the other is fossil fuels. The junk cars are

all large gas guzzlers from the last century. The dirty cooling tower brings to mind the nuclear industry's claim in its infancy that it will soon be "clean, safe, and too cheap to meter." This claim has never come to pass and the days of inexpensive fossil fuels are over. We are now at a crossroads when it comes to energy which leaves us all with a "nagging sense of dread." Can we innovate to supply our expanding energy needs or do we capitulate to the moneyed interests who control our energy sources? Frederick's work renders these two energy industries as worn out relics of the past. The picture plane is even tilted askew to underscore this sense of unease.

One of the largest format pieces in the exhibit is *Blue Light*, which is painted with brush and ink. The piece features a dramatic one-point perspective of an empty road running along an elevated highway. The eye is led to a silhouetted young couple standing under a bar called the Blue Light. This popular night spot is

depicted under the glaring and sobering bright light of day. The viewer is like a pedestrian walking along this austere setting that is devoid of the life and magic it captures at night. Frederick's delicate ink washes masterfully delineate the light and surface textures of concrete, steel and glass. There is a nod to Richard Estes' urban paintings with the couple's reflection in the store front window.

While the majority of the works in the exhibition are black and white images rendered in brush and ink, Frederick also demonstrates his ability to work in color. *Petro-Canada* is a watercolor and ink piece that seamlessly blends the two mediums. The subject is a Canadian gas station with a plethora of fast food eateries blighting the background. However, color does not change the work's disquieting effect. Rising gas prices have created a sense of apprehension at the pump for all of us. Frederick has the viewer squinting into the sun which is behind the canopy above the

pumps. A nearly silhouetted woman in a car in the foreground meets the viewer's gaze as the sunlight glints off the car's roof. She sits in the passenger's seat apparently awaiting the return of the driver. The scene immediately conveys the transitory nature of a road trip.

Frederick's subjects vary from piece to piece, yet each is connected by an undercurrent of unease implicit in each work. Drawn from personal experience, his images are sublimely presented in a manner that connects with us all. Most of us try to avoid trouble, but in the case of Bill Frederick's exhibit we are challenged to embrace it.

Steven Jones  
Art Gallery Curator



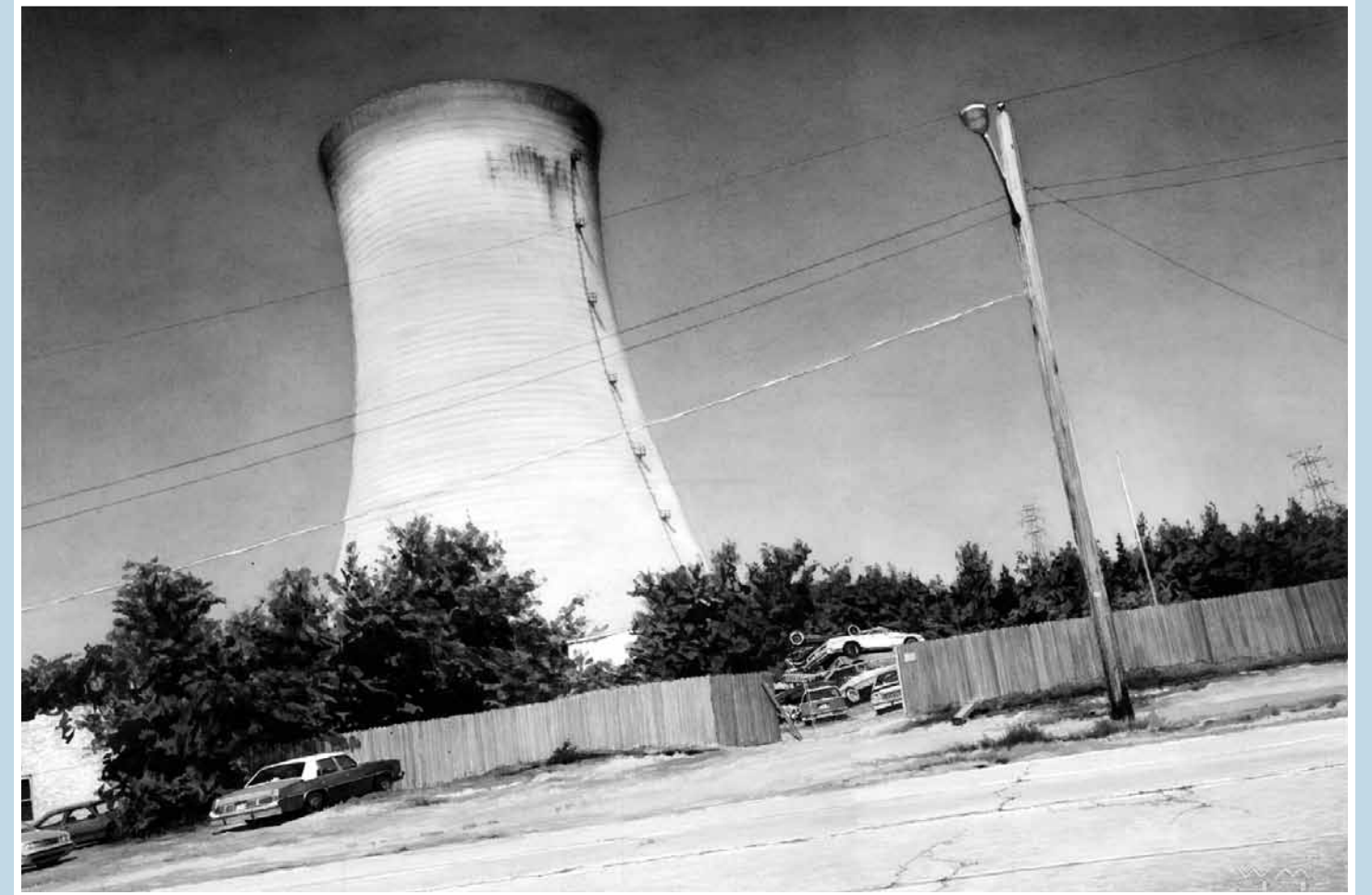
*Dog/Man/Truck*, 2010  
brush and ink on paper, 19 1/4" x 34 1/2"



*Ferryboat*, 2009  
brush and ink on paper, 16" x 18"



*Lakeshore Motel*, 2007, watercolor and ink, 15 1/2" x 20"



*Cooling Tower*, 2006, brush and ink on paper, 16" x 23 3/4"



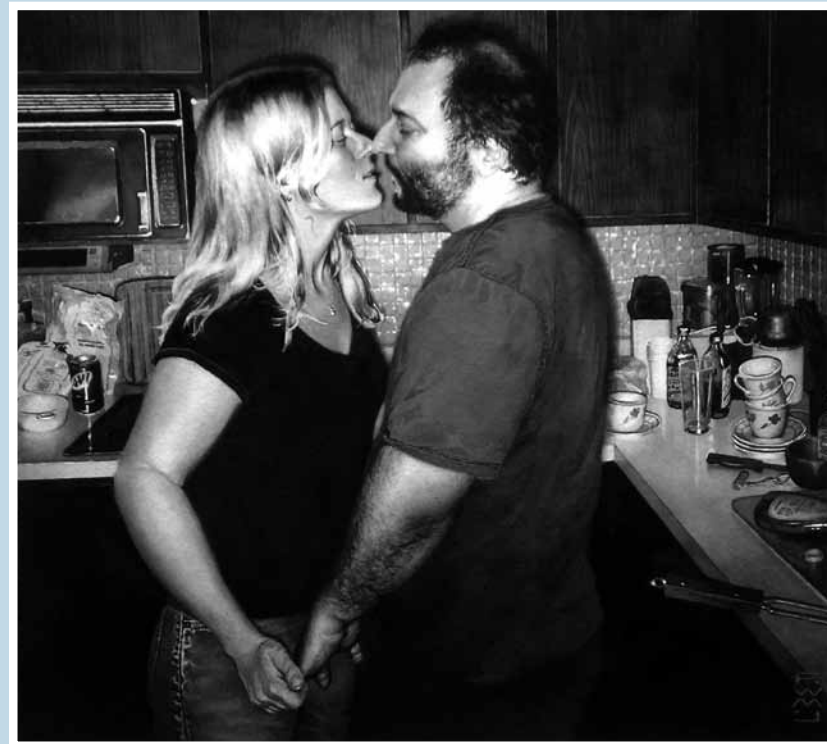
*Chicken Pen, 2006*  
brush and ink on paper, 12" x 17 3/4"



*Road and Tavern, 2006*  
watercolor, 13 1/4" x 24"



*Guy Smoking, 2010*  
brush and ink on paper, 10 3/8" x 14"



*Couple About to Kiss, 2005*  
brush and ink on paper, 14 1/2" x 16"



*Migrating Bird*, 2005  
brush and ink on paper, 14 1/2" x 21"



*Blue Light*, 2010, brush and ink on paper, 34 1/4" x 58"



*Petro-Canada*, 2008, watercolor and ink, 16 1/2" x 38 1/2"



*Footsteps and Vapor Trail*, 2009  
brush and ink on paper, 10 1/4" x 14 3/4"

**BILL FREDERICK**[www.williamlewisfrederick.com](http://www.williamlewisfrederick.com)**EDUCATION**

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
 Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2011 *The Artist's Daughter*, North Park University, Chicago, IL  
*Oil and Water (Do Not Mix)*, The Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2010 *Concrete Island: New Works by Bill Frederick*, Zg Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Bill Frederick*, University Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*20<sup>th</sup> Evanston + Vicinity Biennial*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
*Bill Frederick: Something About You*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- 2009 *It's All Who You Know*, Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Cluster F\*#k*, Zg Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *Lovely in the Distance: New Works by Bill Frederick*, Zg Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2007 *The Exquisite Snake*, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Evanston, IL  
*Devils and Beasts*, Art Center Highland Park, Highland Park, IL
- 2006 *Dark and Light: Recent Works by Bill Frederick*, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL
- 2005 *A Feast for the Senses*, Printworks Gallery, Chicago, IL

**SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS**

- 2010 Morgan-Blake Fellowship, Ragdale residency
- 2009 City of Chicago CAAP grant

**BOOKS**

*Bill Frederick: Concrete Island* (2010 exhibit book published by Zg Gallery)  
*Dark and Light: 24 Paintings by Bill Frederick* (Boffo Books, 2009)  
*Bill Frederick: Lovely in the Distance* (2008 exhibit book published by Zg Gallery)

**SELECTED COLLECTIONS**

Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Evanston, IL  
 Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL  
 Winston and Strawn, New York City  
 ATS Media, Chicago  
 Audrey Niffenegger, Chicago

**Bill Frederick: *Here Comes Trouble*****Exhibition Checklist**

- Beach and Vapor Trail*, 2012, watercolor and ink on paper
- Beach (Footsteps)*, 2012, watercolor and ink on paper
- BP Pumps*, 2012, watercolor and ink on paper
- Blue Light*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Light Poles/Oil Tanks*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Satellite Dishes*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Dog/Man/Truck*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Through a Fence*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Ballplayers*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Joyride Car*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Guy Smoking*, 2010, brush and ink on paper
- Footsteps and Vapor Trail*, 2009, brush and ink on paper
- Ferryboat*, 2009, brush and ink on paper
- Cap-Blanc Auto*, 2008, brush and ink on paper
- Petro-Canada*, 2008, watercolor and ink on paper
- Night Flight*, 2008, brush and ink on paper
- Lakeshore Motel Lamp*, 2007, watercolor and ink on paper
- Cooling Tower, Michigan City, Indiana*, 2006, brush and ink on paper
- Chicken Pen*, 2006, brush and ink on paper
- Road and Tavern*, 2006, watercolor and ink on paper
- Couple About to Kiss*, 2005, brush and ink on paper
- Migrating Bird*, 2005, brush and ink on paper
- Service Station Lights*, 2005, brush and ink on paper

All works by Bill Frederick are courtesy of Zg Gallery, Chicago  
<http://www.zggallery.com>

# Bill Frederick: *Here Comes Trouble*

May 18 – June 29, 2012

## Gallery Summer Hours

**May 18 – June 1**

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**June 4 – 29**

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information: (847) 543-2240

E-mail: [sjones@clcollinois.edu](mailto:sjones@clcollinois.edu)

<http://gallery.clcollinois.edu/>

The Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art  
is a project of the College of Lake County Foundation.

**Cover:** Bill Frederick, *Petro-Canada*, watercolor and ink

College of Lake County

19351 West Washington St., Grayslake, IL