



PAUL HEYER CHICAGO

FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 11, 2022

Opening Reception:

Friday, February 4th from 8 – 11 PM

Musical performance by
Tim Kinsella & Jenny Pulse

Refreshments provided by
Land & Sea Dept.

312 (Sunflowers on Red) Detail
2022
oil and acrylic
on polyester
72 x 84 inches

Soccer Club Club is pleased to present '**CHICAGO**' — a solo exhibition by artist **Paul Heyer**.

Inspired by the city he calls home, **Heyer** uses the colors of the Chicago flag as a starting point, transmuting the associative weight of red white and blue in a series of new paintings of charismatic sunflowers. In his mind the red of the flag becomes the unnerving red light of police vehicles. The blue is the huge Midwest sky, and the white becomes silver — the reflection of moonlight on Lake Michigan. With these sensorial associations the colors are dematerialized from their symbolic context in the tribalistic Chicago flag in order to address the brutal hierarchies of power and the intangible sublime of the Midwest landscape.

Every summer in Chicago a multitude of sunflowers appear, some monstrously huge and some pitifully small. They are an omnipresent population. In **Heyer's** newest body of work sunflowers seem so alive as to almost be conscious, living a life as dramatic as ours: joyful, mourn-

ful, and relational. Heyer's installation is an ambitious and encompassing monument to the city and its ambient visual language, drawing influence from the scale of the murals in the various neighborhoods he has inhabited, from the 'bigger than life' paintings of **El Greco**, **Clemente**, and **Matisse's** chapel at Venice, and from the immersive spaces of video games.

The paintings in '**CHICAGO**' are accompanied by a sound piece that **Heyer** made in collaboration with DJ and producer **Ariel Zetina**. This piece, as with **Heyer's** paintings, are designed to make the viewer feel incredibly awake and impossibly alive. Vibratory and super-saturated, '**CHICAGO**' is an operatic ode to the inhabitants of this city.

***Paul Heyer** was born in Chicago, Illinois. He has exhibited his work at MCA Chicago, Night Gallery Los Angeles, Chapter NY, and Mickey Gallery Chicago, among others, and earned his BA and MFA from Columbia University, NY.*