

best bets



[VISUAL ARTS]

1 JASON BRAMMER EXHIBITION

There's more than meets the eye in Jason Brammer's art.

The Indianapolis native, who lives in Chicago, will open "A Separate Reality" at the Harrison Center for the Arts, and he wants you to look a bit closer "to see what is real and what is painted."

The exhibition, incorporating paintings, drawings and assembled pieces, aims to show "another era, dimension or lifetime that I try to evoke in my art," Brammer said. "I like to convey that there are hidden elements at work below the surface of what we perceive."

Nowhere is the concept better displayed than in Brammer's "Time Machine" series. The mixed-media works combine painting and assemblage — real antique parts, like vintage handles, salvaged wood and recycled leather are integrated into the painted surfaces.

Working with antiques, Brammer says he's amassed an array of parts at his studio. "I have an ever-evolving swirl of objects to choose from, ranging from rusted gears and chains to antique pulleys and door hinges," he says. "At a certain point in the process of creating, I think 'Aha! I know the perfect piece for this!'"

» 6 p.m. April 13 (opening reception), Harrison Center for the Arts, 1505 N. Delaware St., free, (317) 396-3886, www.harrisoncenter.org. Exhibit shows through April 27.