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ARTS / CULTURE

Three to See: Kristin's Picks

Produced by **Kristin Moo** on Friday, October 03, 2008

Number two in this *Three to See* is a garden of sorts inside the **Fine Arts Building** in downtown Chicago.

KEEBLER: "It's of another era, and nothing, probably, that is in existence today in Chicago."

Artist **Catherine Keebler**'s installation "My Grandpa's Garden" invites viewers into Keebler's memory of childhood days spent playing in her grandfather's garden in the 1920's and 30's. As you enter, you see the words to the nursery rhyme "Sing a Song of Sixpence," which Grandpa would sing while gardening. There's a white picket fence entwined with silk hollyhocks. And Keebler's recreated the façade of the corrugated cardboard playhouse from which she'd peer out into the yard of her grandparents' south side bungalow.

Grandpa's there, too—in a large photo print, standing tall with a pipe in his mouth and a garden hoe in hand. And a hazy pastel also titled "My Grandpa's Garden" evokes the warmth of that faraway time and place. Keebler says just walking into the space makes her smile, and she hopes visitors have a similar reaction.

KEEBLER: "My grandfather was always a cheerful person, and I never heard him complain, he was singing his songs, so it brings back a lot of very good times."

That's Catherine Keebler's installation "My Grandpa's Garden," all this month in the tiny **Finestra Art Space** on the fifth floor of the Fine Arts Building in Chicago. The gallery is only open on Friday and Saturday afternoons, but you can get a good look through the floor-to-ceiling windows any other time.