

## **CHEESE + CRACKERS, GIN + TONIC, AND NOW...ART + VISION**

Spex presents ART+VISION with the photography of Dave Rentauskas, T. Harrison Hillman and Tony Favarula

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 12, 2008 - Chicago, IL – Spex, Chicago's destination for luxury eyewear and sunwear, holds an ART+VISION event with the photography of Dave Rentauskas, T. Harrison Hillman and Tony Favarula. The reception takes place on Wednesday, September 24 from 5-8 pm, at 2136 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60614; 773-975-7867; spexchicago.com. The show will run through October 29, 2008. Drinks & hors d'oeuvres will be served. The event is sponsored by Chicago Magazine and Lafont eyewear.

Through ART+VISION, Spex seeks to provide local talent a diverse and receptive audience within the context of a unique retail environment. Spex has always believed in the importance of encouraging the talent that drives all creative endeavors. These well-attended shows are largely due to local creatives who are given a platform for exposure and community connection. Manager Carolyn Rikje says, "As young photographers, these guys have developed their own visual style and can create an interesting spin on any portrait or staged scene. They communicate such poignant compositions and I'm always struck by the 'edge' in their work...the unusual perspective brought to each photo. It makes sense that they all happen to be friends – they have a similar approach but maintain their individuality and voice. We're really excited to be able to use our store as a venue to show their work."



*(photo by Dave Rentauskas)*



*(photo by Tony Favarula)*



*(photo by T. Harrison Hillman)*

Dave Rentauskas is a Chicago native. He takes pictures because he thinks they're cool, not to save the world. He never thought of himself as an "artist," much in the same way he never thought of himself as "political." But he does vote, so he figures he might as well make art. Tony Favarula was born in Ohio, moved to Pennsylvania, studied Archaeology, moved to California, worked in a photo lab, moved to Chicago, and made some pictures. T. Harrison Hillman was born in Cincinnati. He captures images of his life, as if they were small glimpses of a dream or connections created by "perfect" moments of truth. All three photographers live and work in Chicago. For more information, visit [www.tharrisonhillman.com](http://www.tharrisonhillman.com) and [www.tfavphoto.com](http://www.tfavphoto.com).

Spex offers artfully crafted eyewear and sun wear to a stylish and discerning public with an eye for beauty and function. Their services range from contact lens fittings and eye exams to eyewear styling and repairs. Product lines are frequently updated, while attentive and knowledgeable customer service rounds out the experience for the savvy shopper. Dr. Gina Piper, specializing in primary eye care, is the in-house optometrist and encourages all customers to come in for a comprehensive eye exam. Most major medical and routine vision insurances are accepted.

**Media Contact: Marilyn Frank, Tel: 847-905-1410, x 26; Email: [marilyn.frank@spexchicago.com](mailto:marilyn.frank@spexchicago.com)**

# # #