



# “The View From Here”

*From Russia, with Virginia artist, exhibit stops in Hampton Roads*

BY TERESA ANNAS  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

**Y.** DAVID CHUNG stood in the middle of his shrine to shopping centers, watching techies wrestle with how to synchronize three industrial DVD players.

Chung's "Stripmall" is not a conventional artwork.

It's the only multimedia installation in a new show at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, "The View From Here." The show otherwise consists of silk-screen prints by contemporary Russian and American artists.

Chung is one of 10 well-known Americans in the exhibit, which opened in December in Moscow. The exchange project was organized by Hand Print Workshop International in Alexandria. The first American stop



is Hampton Roads, where the show is split between the Virginia Beach center and Old Dominion University Gallery in Norfolk.

In "The View From Here," worlds collide in adventurous, enigmatic images. But the art shares a theme: identity.

**Working in DVD** makes Chung a pioneer. He used to be an old-fashioned video artist. But video is delicate, he said. After a few weeks of running eight hours a day in a museum, the tape wears out. Doesn't happen with DVD.

Chung's "Stripmall" has a

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square black frame construction that's 8 feet tall and nearly 13 feet on a side. Visitors enter the shrine-like structure through a doorway or any of four open corners. A room within a room.

The three solid walls have large screens with projectors pointed at them. Each projector plays a 7½-minute DVD.

The first few minutes feature scenes from a strip mall. It's more suggestive than literal — loose drawings paired with blurred video.

Then the movie suggests a ride to the next shopping

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## WHERE'S "THE VIEW"?

"The View From Here: Issues of Cultural Identity and Perspective in Contemporary Russian and American Art" is at two art centers:

**Where:** Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, 2200 Parks Ave., Virginia Beach

**When:** Through Sept. 9

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, until 4 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

**How much:** \$3 adults, \$2 seniors, students and military

**Call:** 425-0000

**Where:** Old Dominion University Gallery, 350 W. 21st St., Norfolk

**When:** Through Aug. 19

**Hours:** Noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Free.

**How much:** Free

**Call:** 683-2355

## Chung: Work in DVD makes artist a pioneer

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center. The blurry video on the center screen resembles what a NASCAR racer might see from his windshield, with hand-drawn elements randomly tossed in the air.

Those elements later fly by on the side screens. Tossed like trash.

A soundtrack was compiled by Chung's friend and longtime collaborator, composer Pooh Johnston of Onancock. It's audio atmosphere, not music. Listen closely and hear the rantings of an Eastern Shore radio preacher and the wailing of tires on the highway.

On the outside walls of the shrine, Chung has attached his large, expressive charcoal drawings of strip malls. His vignettes are of tired faces, perky mugs and bowls of Vietnamese noodles.

"Stripmall" is not a rant against consumerism. Chung is reflecting on an observation.

In his home in Northern Virginia, Chung has watched suburban shopping strips become multicultural centers. Shop and restaurant owners from India, Bulgar-

ia, Vietnam and Korea are set up side by side.

It's a forlorn setting for assimilation. Yet it's a rich stew, with something more on the back burner.

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