

# Taking a Freudian view

*By Dave Hoekstra · Chicago Sun-Times*

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OUTDOOR ART | 'Man Hanging Out' dangles 15 stories overhead

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America loves Spider-Man and Superman.

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Talk about hangups: The faux Freud is suspended by one hand from the end of a 10-foot pole. He looks like he is about to jump. In fact, Freud checked out in September 1939 in an assisted death after suffering from mouth cancer.

Freud was born in Freiberg, Moravia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. Cerny's sculpture was installed for Prague Days in Chicago, a celebration of Czech culture. Cerny, 39, made his name in 1991 by painting a Soviet tank pink as a war memorial in central Prague.

"Man Hanging Out" has been exhibited at the Czech Cultural Center in Berlin and the Modern Museum in Stockholm. This is the first time Freud has hung out in the United States. He will be appearing in the South Loop until Aug. 31.

Crestwood resident Dennis Jones was startled after seeing the sculpture from the sidewalk. "What is he doing?" asked Jones, who said he was a child-welfare worker. "Is somebody sitting there? It has to be legal, because he wouldn't be up there all this time without the police coming. It sure looks like a real person."

The best vantage point for seeing "Man Hanging Out" is about a half-block south of the installation. From there you can see that the sculpture might be Freud. Or Jung. Cerny said he wasn't in charge of the installation and he might have dangled "Man Hanging Out" from a lower place, such as a third floor window.

"The guys from the Czech Consulate spent a lot of time negotiating for locations," Cerny said as he craned his neck up to look at the good doctor. "This is the spot they found. It is nice. There were questions with liabilities and insurance."

Columbia College insured "Man Hanging Out" in case he becomes "Man Falling Down."

Native Czech Marcel Sulc enjoyed the sculpture, even though he thought it looked like a man being hanged. "It put some questions in my mind," said Sulc, a downtown computer programmer. "Like is he really hanged? Of course he isn't. But I had no idea he was Sigmund Freud. That put more thought in my head."

The college created a window sign interpreting the work.

The sign is on the first floor.

Cerny explained, "I did the piece in 1996 when everyone was talking about the end of the century. What was going to be in the next century? What is the role of the intellectual going to be? I picked Freud because he was the founder of psychoanalysis -- the intellectual face of the 19th century -- and he was born in Freiberg."

St. Paul, Minn., resident Beverly Dretzke was strolling down Michigan Avenue when she eyed the sculpture. "I think it's wonderful," she said. "It is art in its best form because it is so unusual." But Dretzke did not know who the sculpture depicted until she was told.

"Sigmund Freud?!" she asked. "Oh, that's even better. I'm a psychologist. I think he should be hanging from a roof."

"I'm not a Freudian. I'm more of a behaviorist."