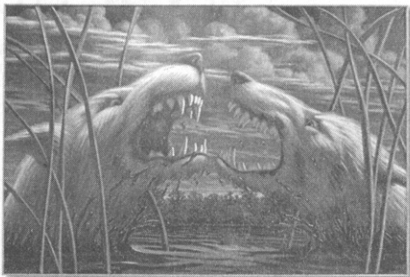


Howard A. Tullman, Chicago High Tech Investors LLC

■ **Where:** 754 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

■ **What you see:** Big art. This venture capitalist makes his statement bold and clear, with an arrangement of some 200 large, unframed canvases in a 2,500-square-foot office suite. The contemporary works are vivid and realistic, chosen in part for their arresting qualities. A shadowy figure flees through the woods. A pair of wolves bare their fangs.

White rats figure prominently in a self-portrait of an artist fighting cancer. Mr. Tullman, a high-tech entrepreneur who helped launch and later sold online music site Tunes.com, says he is drawn to figurative artworks. But there are no rules: His most notable piece is a red, white, blue and black abstraction by French pop artist Jean Dubuffet. Several others exemplify Outsider art, by painters with no formal training. The 57-year-old Mr. Tullman, general managing partner of Chicago High Tech, sits at a 2,000-pound, custom-made steel desk with three Chicago skyscrapers for legs. Each structure—the Sears Tower, John Hancock Center and Amoco Building—lights up and pierces a glass top with clouds etched in it. A lamp resembles a crane. Nearby, the collector displays a life-size sculpture of an old man huddled atop a wooden ladder that almost reaches the ceiling. More startling is the fact that the figure, titled "Flydog," by Joseph Seigenthaler, has no clothes and a canine nose. Down below, the Rott-



weiler is stuffed. And the machine gun is a prop from a movie. Mr. Tullman works alone here, but defines his desk area with partitions and tops them with vintage lunch boxes. He arranges Pez dispensers, new and old, in the adjacent library, equipped with a pool table and drum set. He designed the talking pinball machine, complete with video screen. "I think of my office as a clubhouse for grown-ups," he explains, "but it's really only for me."

■ **What he sees:** "A lot of stimulation. Many of these works are strikingly upset-

ting, while others are really kind of beautiful. But none of them are things you can walk by and ignore. Each has its own story. I believe in the theory that if you're not distinct, you have a good chance of becoming extinct—fairly soon. When people walk through here, they get a sense that something's going on."

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