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# Going around in circles, finding art along the way

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Written by Jim Memmott

A decade ago, landscape artist Jim Mott told me, "You have to remember, I really don't like to [travel](#)."

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The remark was significant because Mott was then showing paintings from his Itinerant Artist Project, a 10,000-mile road [trip](#) in which he exchanged paintings for room and board from complete strangers.

Mott, of Brighton, now has finished another kind of road trip, paintings inspired by Rochester's Inner Loop, the lightly traveled and sometimes-maligned circle around downtown.

The paintings are on display as part of "State of the City: In the Loop," an exhibit at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center, 137 East Ave. Mott got to know the Loop by going in circles, his wife, the writer Sonja Livingston, at the wheel. Spotting something really interesting, he would get out of the [car](#) and take a look.

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## Loop art

**What:** "State of the City: In the Loop," Jim Mott, Cary Markerink and other artists responding to the highway that rings downtown Rochester.

**Where:** Rochester Contemporary Art Center, 137 East Ave.

**When:** Through Sept. 25.

**Hours:** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday; 1 to 10 p.m., Fridays

**Admission:** \$1 (free for members)

**For information:** (585) 461-2222 or go to rochestercontemporary.org.

In the studio, he then created 11 canvases and two wood panel paintings that together make the Loop seem far more evocative than I would have thought.

Mott intersperses the Loop art with landscapes from a local itinerant artist project in which he stayed in downtown Rochester [homes](#), seeing the city from new angles.

"Waking up in a [house](#) three miles away from mine is a whole different world," he says, endorsing again the joys of hitting the road.

## On and on



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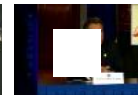
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