

Flight delays aren't the only signs of stress at O'Hare during this holiday season

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Traveling this holiday season can drain more than your time.

Frustration, anger, loathing and depression can smack against your windshield and be hard to wipe away.

If you find yourself stuck at O'Hare International Airport — one of the busiest and most-delayed landing strips in the nation — you'll now have some intriguing art to reflect on these emotions.

The hallways at terminals 2 and 3 have been painted a bright orange and are lined with 68 paintings meant to illustrate mental illness. Some are cheery, but others are dark and may instantly put a cork in your carols.

The irony of placing such art in such a stressful environment is not lost on the Chicago-based Neumann Association, a mental illness care provider that put the exhibit together.

"The holidays are a happy time for a lot of people, but it is also very stressful," said Kate O'Malley, the organization's spokeswoman.

"If you take a few minutes to look at this exhibit, it puts everything in perspective and it helps you appreciate what you have, and it gives you insight into what others are going through."

Indeed, the goal of the exhibit, which also has been on display at Chicago civic centers and museums, is to help observers understand that mentally ill people are a part of society and shouldn't be shunned into the shadows. Some of the paintings were done by Neumann patients in collaboration with professional artists.

"They should be part of our society," O'Malley said.

In the chaos and stress of O'Hare's terminals, many travelers may jokingly agree mental illness is prevalent in everyday life.

But the Neumann Association hopes the paintings will

go further to help people understand what those with mental illness live with — and without.

"I think there is a sense of relief sometimes, and it also can help you think, 'I'm a very fortunate human being that I don't have these issues,'æ" said Eileen Durkin, Neumann's CEO. "When people take the time to look, they walk away feeling much better."

The exhibit will remain on display until February.

I-PASS coming to Indy:

Your I-PASS will work on the Indiana Toll Road, I-90, by this time next year — but you'll also be paying more to travel that stretch from Illinois to Ohio.

On the tail end of the times, Indiana's 157-mile tollway connecting to the Chicago

Skyway will be outfitted with electronic tolling under the brand name E-Z Pass, which also works with I-PASS. The new system is expected to be fully available by September 2007 as part of a \$40 million overhaul.

Indiana leased the tollway to an Australian and Spanish company in June for \$3.8 billion. The company will raise tolls to recoup the investment and make a profit.

Like in Illinois, buyers of the electronic pass system in

Indiana will get a discount.

But Illinois drivers with an

I-PASS will not get that discount.

Once the electronic system is in place, tolls will nearly double — so you'll pay \$8, not \$4.65, to travel the full length one way.

The I-PASS system also works on toll roads in states on the East Coast from Virginia to Maine.

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