

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Jacob Lee Cruzen

2006

*Scheduled for December*  
University Public Library  
St. Louis, Missouri

*Scheduled for October*  
Heaven Knows my Name  
Hoffman Lachance Gallery  
St. Louis, Missouri

2005

*Cool to Death Art House*  
Kunming, China

*Off Broadway*  
St. Louis, Missouri

2004

*RM House*  
Bangkok, Thailand

2003

*1st Place*  
*Southeast Missouri Art Exhibition*  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

*Jeremiahs*

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Jacob Lee Cruzen was born in 1979 in North St. Louis. Early on, he was influenced by his fathers' art, and began drawing and making collages. After touring the South and West, he received his BFA from Southeast Missouri State. Since then, he has been awarded for his clothing designs, and has lived in Shanghai (China) and Bangkok (Thailand).

Currently, Jake is painting at the Lemp Studios where he is preparing for an exhibition with Jon Cournoyer in October 2006 at the Hoffman LaChance Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri. My work is shaped by true Americana, the underbelly of American culture."

Jacob Lee Cruzen

573-587-6693

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

Marketing and Concept Developer, Elephant (8/04 to 1/05 and 7/02 to 1/04) Bangkok, Thailand

- Created new design plan for slippers and scarves.
- Organized product shows in Chicago, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.
- Initiated internet sales and catalog design.
- Scouted overseas production in trips to Bangkok, Thailand, China.

Marketing and Product Design, Sleepwalker Shoes, LLC. (7/02 to 1/04) The Galleria, St. Louis, Missouri

- Led design and purchased product in Thailand and China.
- Oversaw final stages of product development.
- Created progressive environment and signaled it to younger age demographic at the Galleria.
- Managed all operations, including sales training.

Designer, Hip Handbags, (11/01 to 5/02) St. Louis, Missouri

- Created design for handbags using natural fibers.

#### EDUCATION

Southeast Missouri State University, Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, Emphasis in Painting, 2003

Southeast Missouri State University, Bachelor of Science Degree, Emphasis in Sociology, 2003

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

1st Place winner of 2003 Southeast Missouri University Art Exhibition, Painting

3rd place award, Cape Girardeau, Oil painting

Journalism Award, Best Cartooning, Washington University

1st place award 2005, best visual display Westfield Malls, Deans Honor List

Jacob Lee Cruzen and Jon Cournoyer

In America today, cultural moments are consumed before they are realized. After a book is read, a person is heard, a cardboard box used, it can be thrown away and considered junk or trash. Trash is, by definition, an object that is not, or is no longer owned by anyone, and falls outside the categories of style, economics, culture and social control.

For Jake Cruzen, his inspiration arrives from the streets of the underbelly of America. Jake's paintings are created from a wide range of found materials that have little monetary value but bear a wealth of cultural associations.

For Jon Cournoyer his inspiration arrives from cultural generations that he has grown up with that have been used and discarded. Materials relating to American history, folklore, or geography are reoccurring themes in his work.

A common ground for both artists is the recognition of the aesthetic potential and cultural connotations of found objects. Both artists accept the qualities of age and usage and are touched by the tragedies that are evident in junk or trash. The artists share the understanding of displacement and their roles in somehow arranging and putting back pieces of a thrown away American culture.