

Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



Focusing on the object

When he was three years old, Chicago area architect and artist Chad Wooters was fascinated by the illustrations in an old high school geometry book. Perhaps this explains his paintings' sensitive treatment of spatial relationships.

The humble objects in his paintings display a kind of architectural intuition that even the artist finds difficult to explain.

"A couple of years ago, I was showing a friend some of my still life paintings," says Wooters. "We were, at that moment, two artists practicing in parallel worlds. At the time, he was getting his Master of Fine Arts at Buffalo State and was deeply immersed in conceptual art theories. At that time I had a more

traditional approach; I painted what I saw. We discussed technique for a while, and then he asked me a question that I've pondered a lot since then. He asked, "Why these objects?" I replied that I simply paint what's around me, which is just as true today as it was then."

Flowers-in-a-vase and fruit-in-a-bowl don't interest Wooters much. "Power tools, caulk guns, cardboard boxes, and tape rolls are close at hand," he says, "so it's only natural for those things to find their way into my paintings."

Wooters stresses that assembling a reference model is the most important part of his design process. According to the artist, it takes him about two or three days of trial and error before he's satisfied with his model.

"By the time the brush hits the canvas, all the composition is done. From that point on, it's all about craftsmanship. All I have to do is accurately render what I see in front of me."

Of course, none of this adequately answers the question, "Why these objects?" Even though Wooters gave lectures in 2004 about the symbolism and motivations of historic still-life painters at both the Steeple Gallery and the Chesterton Art Center, the artist still doesn't have an adequate answer.

"The tools and building materials I paint have no meaning in and of themselves. Narratives and symbolism just aren't that important to me. If I wanted to tell a story I'd write a book. I focus on what paintings are really good at doing,

which is showing stuff. My painting ideas are about texture, transparency, idealized form, the negative space between objects. These are visual ideas and can only be shown with images. I just happen to use the still-life genre as the vehicle for these visual ideas."

In 2005, Wooters' works were published in the book "Living Artists" by Ivy Sundell.

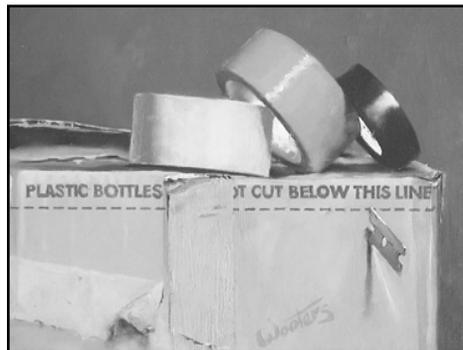
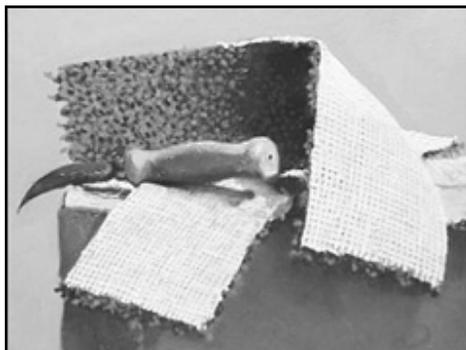
Also, he won a purchase award from the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill.

Currently, Chad Wooters is developing a new body of work and exhibiting in alternative spaces including the Helen Plum Library in Lombard, Ill.

For more information on Chad Wooters, please call the Steeple Gallery in St. John at 219-365-1014 or email samowner@sbcglobal.net



Chad Wooters



Service will honor lost heroes

CROWN POINT — An evening service on Memorial Day will honor members of the armed services who have given their lives.

The Crown Point Founders Committee and Chamber of Commerce will host the "To Honor and Remember" program at 7 p.m. May 28 at the old Lake County Courthouse.

American military personnel killed in Afghanistan and Iraq will be recognized at the event.

"Since we remain at war, we wanted this Memorial Day to be unique with the war at hand while respecting all veterans," said Tom Hawes, the event organizer.

A variety of organizations, including schools, service organizations, and churches have participated in prepara-



Photo provided to the Star

Nick Simatovich, right, a resident of Franciscan Homes assisted living, shows Holy Family Child Care participant Zachary O'Hara photos of himself in the Army during World War II while working on a Memorial Day craft project. Participants made candleholders that will be used during the "To Honor and Remember" program scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at the old courthouse in downtown Crown Point.

tions for the event.

"This special ceremony is about community, and being involved in the

community and supporting our troops," Hawes said.



The 2007 Annual St. Matthias Spring GARAGE, ANTIQUE & BAKE SALE

St. Matthias Catholic Church Hall
101 Burrell Drive, Crown Point, IN

Thursday May 24th • 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Friday, May 25th • 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

NO EARLY BIRDS

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