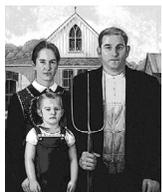


## Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



# Young artist striving to build career

**T**alented emerging artists are hard to find.

Recently I reviewed the works of local artist Eric Stenberg, a young artist striving to make it in the artworld. It is my pleasure to intruduct you to Eric Stenberg in his own words:

Erik Stenberg was born into an environment where creativity and originality were prized and rewarded. Imagination, ingenuity and artistic ability runs in his family. His father Peter Stenberg is an accomplished photographer, and his mother Kay has held an active interest in art throughout her life.

Erik has two sisters, Kristina, a talented make-up artist and painter, and Katie, a graphic designer and clever photographer.

Growing up in Northwest Indiana, Erik began by coloring and shading coloring books to make the images appear 3D. He spent many hours drawing anything and everything that intrigued him.

At age 10, Erik began experimenting with airbrushing, reveal-



ing another area of hidden talent. He continued to draw and air-brush throughout his adolescence, selling his first piece at age 11.

During his years at Lake Central High School in St. John, he began sculpting, finding it too came naturally. His school art department showcased him several times throughout his teenage years.

After graduating high school in 1998, Erik attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago. There he continued to strengthen his technique and develop his unique style, by taking a variety of classes focused on life drawing, creative thinking, and graphic design.

During college he began using charcoal, and discovered that his years spent shading his coloring books served him well with this medium.

Graduating with an Associates Art Degree in 2001, Erik gained employment at Studio Laser, a graphic design studio in Chicago, where he is currently employed.



After the completion of college, Erik continued to investigate various art forms. He began freelancing with charcoal drawings and portraits, further defining his unusual style of art.

In April of 2005, he started an apprenticeship under tattoo artist Ken Culver of Tainted Skin Tattoo in Crown Point. While learning the art of tattooing, Erik quickly understood the significance of a steady hand and attention to detail.

Wanting a challenge, and in an effort to break away from black and white charcoal, he began painting in early 2007. With no formal instruction in painting, Erik took what he already knew, and applied it to painting with acrylics and canvas.

Having always preferred art that is full of contradictions, style and imagination, the obvious direction was Lowbrow. His paintings are humorous and colorful depictions of outlandish



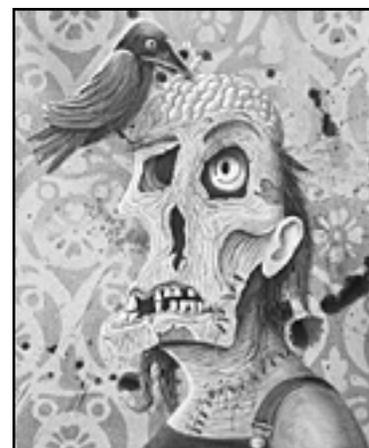
scenarios.

The subjects of his works are random, yet relatable and inviting. They are technically masterful, and wildly entertaining. His work has been featured in the Chicago Reader and on the TalentDatabase.

Erik was one of six talented local artists selected to paint a mural during the 2007 Silver Room block party held in Downtown Chicago. He has shown at several exhibitions throughout the Chicagoland area and will be showing new paintings at The Hive Gallery in Los Angeles, DVA Gallery in Chicago in 2007, and at the Omegacon Exhibition in Birmingham, Ala., in 2008.

Erik currently resides in Griffith, Indiana with his girlfriend Andrea, and their three dogs, Skitzo, Hoggle, and Marilyn. To view more of his works visit:

[www.myspace.com/eriksart](http://www.myspace.com/eriksart), call 219-308-0770, or email him at [digitalmidgits@yahoo.com](mailto:digitalmidgits@yahoo.com).



## C.L. reserve officer commended for quick action

BY KITTY CONLEY  
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**CEDAR LAKE** – At Cedar Lake Summerfest a young man on the midway had stopped breathing.

According to Police Chief Roger Patz, Michael DeVries, a Cedar Lake Reserve Police Officer recognized the distress. DeVries performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging food from the man's throat. This act opened the young man's airway, allowing him to breath again.

After a few breaths, the young man that DeVries rescued returned to normal and set about enjoying the

rest of Summerfest. He declined further medical treatment.

Patz said, "Medics confirmed that if the victim's airway had not been quickly cleared, he would have probably choked to death."

On Sept. 29, the Cedar Lake Metropolitan Police Department honored Reserve Police Officer Michael DeVries by awarding him its "Life Saving Medal" for his quick action.

As part of the same Police Commission meeting, Kevin Rodziewicz, Eric Seip and Ted Wells, were sworn in as Cedar Lake Reserve Police Officers.

The oath of office was also given

to the Rev. John Kowalzyk, Jr., as the newest addition to the Chaplain Corps in Cedar Lake.

All three new Reserve Officers are attending the Pre-Basic Academy Training.

Rodziewicz is a resident of Merrillville and is a graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He is currently employed as a correctional officer at the Lake County Jail.

Seip is a resident of Crown Point and is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, where he is assigned to Civil Affairs. He is a 2005 graduate of Crown Point High School and is

attending Purdue University Calumet.

Wells is also a resident of Crown Point. He graduated from Indiana University with an associate of science degree in criminal justice and is a member of the Crown Point Emergency Management Agency, formerly known as the Civil Defense.

Kowalzyk is a priest of the Polish Catholic National Church. His current parrish is in East Chicago. He has recently moved to Cedar Lake with his wife and two children where his parrish is building a new church. He is certified by the national Conference of Police Chaplains.

**Births, engagements, weddings, and anniversaries** are events your neighbors are interested in reading about!

Send a **photo** and all the **details** to the Star at P.O. Box 419, Crown Point, IN 46308, or drop them off at our office at 112 West Clark Street.