

Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

Troy Seel, modern day Edward Hopper



This Indiana artist has views about art which may surprise you. Troy Seel is an artist who lives in Madison, Indiana. Madison is located at the south end of the state which is located near the Ohio

River with a population of about 15,000. The Riverwalk in Madison actually inspired one of his most recent oil paintings.

It always amazes me how artists begin their journey of creativity. When I asked Seel how he began he responded: "Even though my mother was an LPN at a local hospital, and my father worked in a power plant, Mom was always into art; she was an avid art lover. I would sit for hours looking at famous works and trying to copy the masters such as John Singer Sargent, Andrew Wyeth, and Edward Hopper from her art history books.

By the time I reached high school, I was considered an accomplished oil painter and won best in oils and best in drawing. As a senior I received a scholarship to attend The Columbus College of Art and Design. My most recent award was in 2007 — a first place in the annual Jefferson County Historical Society art show."

Seel has worked as a graphic designer for several years in the sign industry. Most of his subject matter is taken from long drives down the back roads of Southern Indiana.



Photos provided to the Star

Above, a painting by Troy Seel, an Indiana artist who hails from downstate Madison. At upper right is a dead shark in a glass and steel tank done by contemporary artist Damien Hirst, who is also the artist behind the skull at lower right. Seel said those works exemplify a negative trend in the art world. At right is Seel's "River Walk in Madison," an oil on canvas, 26 inches by 32 inches framed, and is available at Steeple Gallery. Seel says the area was used in a film about Madison's annual regatta. Seel shot the area with a camera and then created the oil painting.



SUCCESS
on your terms.

First Financial means success. Financial freedom. And endless possibilities. At First Financial Bank, we understand better than anyone that you are driven to achieve financial peace of mind. That's why we offer you the ability to control your own financial success, while guiding you with smart and secure solutions to help you reach your personal goals.

Step into a First Financial banking center today to enjoy the freedom of success, *on your terms.* Call 877.322.9530 or visit bankatfirst.com.

FIRST
first financial bank

Another step on the path to success

bankatfirst.com |

Joe Krnich & Associates, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

TAXES

Tax Preparation • Individual and Business
1040 E-Filing available
Call for appointment now! 219-662-7772

Serving you

Joe Krnich, CPA • Joyce Furto, P.A.
118 1/2 W. Clark St., Crown Point, IN 46307
P.O. Box 946, Crown Point, IN 46308
joekrnich@comcast.net



He tries to capture everyday American life scenes.

"My goal as an artist is to pull you into to that moment. When I stumble upon a scene and try an convey what I feel. My work has to have strong contrast and interesting geometry. I pay close attention to how light may effect a building or creates a shadow on a subject," he said.

— See Artist, page 3

— Artist, continued from page 2

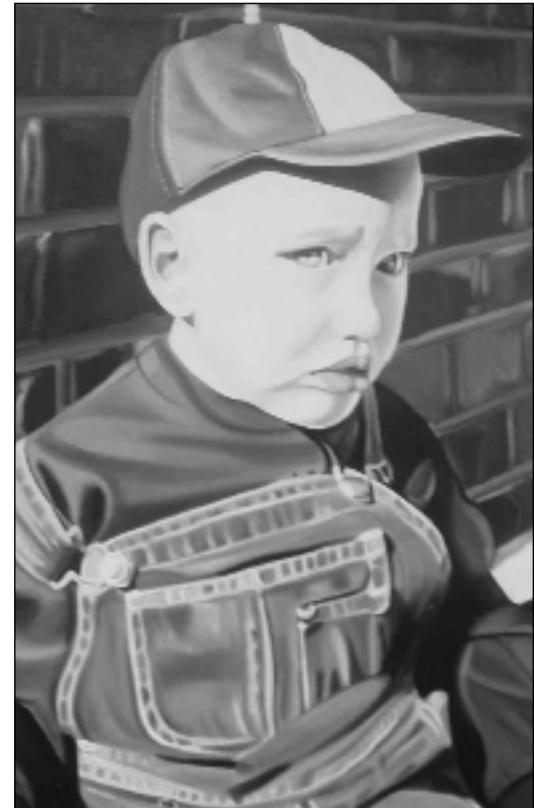
If it doesn't have "pop" and pull you in, then I have failed. It may take me several weeks to decide what I want to paint. I have to know that I really love the scene or subject. If I don't, I loose interest. And from then on it is a struggle to complete a piece.

I start a painting by sketching in on to the canvas in a thin wash or "underpainting" with a brush. Once that is dried and I have everything in place, with the shadows and basic details, I start to apply the color in layers.

I work from dark to light. I may spend several weeks or months working on a single painting.

My goal for the future is to continue to build a solid group of cohesive work.

One thing I have learned over the past few



Photos provided to the Star
 Above are two works Seel created in oils. "Reeds Orchard" depicts a country store and "Mason" is a portrait of a young boy. Below is an example of Seel's poster art of which he has completed several for a variety of companies and municipalities; and another oil, "Looking Through." In the center is "Nighthawks" by Edward Hooper in 1942. The painting influenced Seel in his career as an artist.



years is I don't like where art is headed. "I have researched a lot of galleries in New York and Chicago, and 90 percent of them, I wouldn't even bother to try and get work exhibited there. All you ever see is junk glued together on floors and they call it an "installation." "Or a shark in a tank of water that sells for roughly \$8 million, or a human skull with diamonds (see page 2) on it for a \$100 million. Wait, I can see that selling for a lot because of the diamonds, but that is about it." As you can probably gather, Troy Seel is a realistic painter who creates modern interpretations of everyday life. His affiliations include the Madison Art Club and the Hoosier Salon Patrons Association. To view his works in person please visit The Steeple Gallery, 11107 Thiel St., in St. John, or call (219)365-1014. What are your views of the shark and human skull? E-mail to samowner@sbcglobal.net.



CROWN POINT
STAR

MANAGING EDITOR
Kimberley Mathisen
 kmathisen@post-trib.com

Classified and Subscriptions
 (219) 663-4212
 FAX: (219) 663-0137

Office location
 112 W. Clark Street
 Crown Point, IN 46307

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
 Display Friday 12:00 p.m.
 Classified Friday 12:00 p.m.
 Legals Friday 12:00 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS
 One year \$26.00
 School \$20.00
 One year out of state \$32.00
 One year (foreign) \$54.00

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

INDEX
 LOCAL 2
 OBITUARIES 15
 CLASSIFIEDS 16-24; 27-37
 SPORTS 38

CROWN POINT
 STAR
An Independent Newspaper
 Issue No. 9
 Published weekly at 112 W. Clark Street, Crown Point, IN.
 Entered as periodicals. Postage paid at Crown Point, IN 46307 (USPS 302-060) under act of Congress of March 9, 1879.
 Postmaster: send address changes to P.O. Box 419, Crown Point, IN 46308-0419.

See terms and conditions relating to advertising orders, page 9.