

### Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



CROWN POINT  
**STAR**

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## Hungarian artist palette

Several years ago The Steeple Gallery hosted an event which introduced young artists from the Chicagoland area to Northwest Indiana. One artist work, who I particularly liked was a young lady, Zsafia Otvos.

On October 24, The Steeple Gallery will be part of a collaboration with Precision Construction in Summer Tree Estates in Crown Point. Zsafia will be exhibiting some of her works in the homes, and at the Steeple Gallery this Fall.

It is always great to hear first hand what makes an artist create. In her own words, here is Otvos's story:

"My name is Zsafia Otvos, I was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary. Ever since I can remember drawing was always a favorite past-time for me. My mother is a French tapestry weaver, who worked from our home. Being and playing around the loom was always fun, with my brother and sister we could play with the hundreds and hundreds of different colored yarn, or the loom itself often served great as a "fort", or for "hide and seek." I learned tapestry weaving growing up, which is the basis of my relationship with, and handling of colors. In tapestry weaving, the colors are achieved by pulling five or six different colors of yarns, which remains visible from a close up. On the woven surface, I allow individual colors to be seen by using palette knives the colors mix in the process.

An art scholarship bought me to the U.S. to earn a bachelors degree in art and theater. Being involved with the theater program opened a door to a new world, where I could gain a deeper understanding of character development and the power of the visual representation. This is where I first began doing



make-up along with scenic design. After graduation I was torn between fine art and make-up, finally I decided to do both -- but at first separately. In 1999 I directed my focus to painting; I devised a five-year plan to examine if I could "stand up" as an artist. I call my earlier paintings portraits of emotions. I drew inspiration from my own personal emotions, experiences or scenes that I observed. In the process, I stripped away the everyday elements, and recreated an idealistic scene using the female form as my vessel devoid of time and place. It was here when I first experimented with painting on burlap involving light source as paint. As time passed, I developed an interest in the outside manifestations of the internal existence. Here, I painted "Girl Sitting" as a remember the real person, and "Graceful" (on page 3) is an idealized interpretation of the same inspiration. I find my subject matter anywhere, unexpectedly, when I stumble on characters. The inspiration, more often than not, is a segment of a moment What makes something "all powerful" to me is a perfect combination of facial expression, body posture, attitude, and choice of clothing in relation to a circumstance. My process is to find a "hidden" spot where I can secretly sketch the main attributes of various subjects. Back at my studio, I select whom I want to paint on a larger scale. As reference I rely on my sketches and memory This is when I Painted "In the Library", using



All photos provided to the Star Zsafia Otvos, a Hungarian artist works in several mediums to create one-of-a-kind pieces of art. At far left, "Disconnected," is an acrylic on canvas, measuring 48 inches by 20 inches. At center, "Big Mouth Woman" is also an acrylic on canvas. Above is "Myrtle," also done in acrylic on canvas and measuring 68 by 24 inches.

what I called the burlap method." "Composer, no Doubt" (page 3) is based on a character I saw at the George Washington Library and I imagined he had to be a crazy composer, "Myrtle," a fictional character, carries the emotional presence of the librarian. In this method, I sketch out the composition with paint directly on the stretched burlap or linen, than I prime directly under the figure, which I develop from sketch all over again. Theater helped me understand developing characters in my painting, and my paintings help develop characters for make-up. I am very proud to have been able to contribute to Trap Door theater's productions, and work with multimedia artist Catharine Sullivan. Finally I found a way to fuse fine art with make-up design.

Artist, continued on page 3

Artist, continued from page 2

Representing emotions developed into acknowledging the outer manifestations of the internal existence as in fashion trends, body language and posture "Ugliness on



photos provided to the Star

Otvos's work reflects her impressions of everyday and unusual people she has met in various social and working atmospheres. "The Composer" is at left, and "Graceful" below. At right, a portrait of E.K. Buckley, also acrylic on canvas.



the Face of Beauty"(top right) asks the question: What is the connection or the conflict of the perception of the public and the industry itself? This painting is a statement about the need to please a popular appeal while missing the point of beauty. Inspired by the fascination of importance of outside appearance, I represent my characters with wonderful self importance though they appear mentally blindfolded, as a result the self is replaced by "image".

With my ever increasing interest in representing archetypal real people, as they are, I painted "Arlene and Daria," two waitresses I worked with when I first moved to Chicago. More importantly, they represent the waitress type many of us can relate to and recognize.

I am very amused by misplaced self importance and can't resist making a social commentary as in "Disconnected" and "Blank Stare." The inspiration was born during a VIP event, with a capital "E", where I couldn't help but notice the interaction, rather lack of interaction within intimate groups.

Summing up, my paintings are of peo-

ple. I observe and try to find movements and postures which emerge to make a character, a distinction that seems to be part of a pattern I recognize.

In my paintings, I am investigating the individuality, as my characters represent a type viewers can recognize as familiar.

To see the art in person visit the Steeple Gallery or the Precision Construction Open house. Call Sam at (219) 365-1014 or visit [www.thesteeplegallery.com](http://www.thesteeplegallery.com).

# Toddler death ruled homicide in Lowell

By KITTY CONLEY

LOWELL --Eighteen month old Lowell infant Anthony Mogan was pronounced dead at 9:03 p.m. at St. Anthony Medical Center on Sunday, October 5. Mogan lived in the 1600 block of Robin Lane in Lowell.

"It (thedeath) has been declared a homicide," said Jeff Wells, Assistant to the Lake County Coroner.

Autopsy results report that the boy was killed by blunt force trauma to the head.

When medical personnel discovered the trauma, the Coroner's office was called to St. Anthony's at 9:30 p.m.

According to Wells, there was old and new bruising, on the infant's body. The old bruises were at least a few days old.

The in-depth autopsy report has not as yet been filed.

"An ambulance was called for and we went. After getting there, concerns came up and once the baby got to hospital those concerns were verified," said Lowell Police Chief John Shelhart.

"The mother, baby and a male friend of the mother lived at that address."

Shelhart said he was having a hard time getting information from Child Services. I was slowing his department's investigation.

Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter's office is waiting for the Lowell Police Department to finalize their investigation.

According to Shelhart they will be meeting sometime during the week of October 13-17 to look at filing of charges.

"At the time of the child's death we had an open investigation and now we have opened another investigation on the child's fatality," said Jane Bisbee, Regional Manager of the Indiana Department of Child Services in Lake County Indiana.

"Once this case is ruled as a substantiated case we can share more information. We are working with the Law Enforcement officers (Lowell Police Department) and we share information with them."

The toddler was the son of Alycia Szany and Jeffery Mogan.

The funeral and interment took place at Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens in Schererville on October 10.



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**OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup> - OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Lakeview Terrace**

PG 13

with Samuel L. Jackson & Carry Washington

**OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup> - OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Eagle Eye**

PG 13

with Shia LaBeauf & Michelle Monaghan

**OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup> - OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Nick & Nora's Playlist**

PG 13

with Michael Cera & Kat Dennings