

MEDIA RELEASE

Matt Sesow

Solo Exhibition:

All American Boy

15 November – 20 December 2014

Opening Night: Saturday 15 November
7-9 pm at 19 KAREN Contemporary Artspace



Schordinger's Cat - 2014
Acrylic and oil on canvas
76.2 x 101.6 cm

ALL American Boy is a fitting title for Washington DC artist Matt Sesow's debut Australian solo show. Sesow has served his country in the Peace Corps, he has represented the United States in sport and he has worked as a computer programmer for one of America's corporate giants, IBM. Now the self-taught artist is bringing to the Gold Coast his distinctive high-energy and colourful expressionist style which has been attracting an Australian fan base for the past decade.

Sesow, who has been painting for more than 20 years, has created about a dozen works especially for his All American Boy show, exhibiting at 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace, Mermaid Beach, between November 15 and December 20.

"People are attracted to the raw and energetic vibe in my work. I take chances with my paintings," said Sesow, who has exhibited around the world including six solo shows in Europe. "For this, my first Australian solo show, Terri Lew from 19 Karen wanted a fresh feel and a real Americana vibe. I've created these works especially for Australia such as the Miss America painting. I'm excited to finally come to Australia for my work."

The self-proclaimed accidental artist, who only discovered painting at the age of 28 years, has sold more than 8000 paintings since becoming a full-time artist in 2001. Sesow said painting has helped with his emotional healing after he lost his left hand as a seven-year-old growing up in Nebraska, the United States, after being hit by the propeller of a landing airplane in 1975. Sesow, who is known for his unique iconic imagery which represent trauma and scars, only knows two ways to paint - loud and quiet. In All American Boy the punk music fan has painted a mixture of loud and quiet paintings – with his art affected by the music he is listening to while working.

Sesow is excited to be exhibiting alongside his wife of four years and partner of 13 Dana Ellyn and Italian artist Agostino Iacurci after being invited by 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace owner Terri Lew, who has been tracking Sesow's work for the past eight years.

"I chose international artists, Matt Sesow, Dana Ellyn and Agostino Iacurci because they all share a common thread with conveying their message to viewers," Lew said. "Agostino's strong colours and clean lines, Matt with his frantic brush strokes (as if he is in a hurry to get somewhere) and Dana with her carefully thought out realistic composition in an almost surrealist style; whether their message is political, environmental, or just about life as we know it today, it is executed with the highest accuracy and consideration and often with humour."

Please join us, Matt Sesow and guest speaker Richard Blundell, who is Fellow of the Design Institute of Australia and teacher at Queensland College of Art (Griffith University) for the Opening Night of *All American Boy* at 19 KAREN on Saturday 15 November 2014. To RSVP please email info@19karen.com.au or call on (07) 5554 5019.

ENDS

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