

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Stephen Sumrall Orsak presents **Seven**
A Solo Exhibition of New Work
Four Westlake Park
Houston, Texas
May, 2006



(Houston, Texas, January 17, 2006) Seven-year-old artist Stephen Sumrall Orsak announces **Seven**, a solo exhibition of new work on display in the lobby of Four Westlake Park in May, 2006.

A seemingly successful attempt to bolster his self confidence, Stephen's art is in high demand. When diagnosed with dyslexia, disgrafia, and some auditory processing difficulties, it was actually a relief. Stephen had begun to struggle in school and was happy to let his classmates read for him.

Having some direction in helping their son work with his multi-sensory learning style helped Stephen's dads develop a plan. The first step was to keep Stephen motivated and confident. They took what came naturally and encouraged his art.

Stephen was born in 1998 in the Anhui Province of the People's Republic of China. He was adopted by his dads in 1999 and came to live with them in Houston. Watching home videos of their first Christmas that year, Stephen is seen drawing the faces of Brook and Joe, his Godparents, on a marker board. "It's always been that way," reports his dad, Michael Orsak. "Stephen likes watching documentaries and nature and fishing shows, but not cartoons like I did when I was his age. He draws whenever he can't build with Legos® and isn't in school."

Stephen's other dad, Paul Sumrall, who he calls 'other dad', manages HoustonFoundry.com, a group of 30 artist studios in the Fifth Ward. In this building, Stephen creates at a fever pitch. He works alongside Dr. Kathy Biddle, who he calls Kathy Biddle, full name, every sentence. Kathy Biddle is a retired geologist. Kathy Biddle shares his love for nature and birds.

For his upcoming exhibition, Stephen will be featuring a new series of portraits of fresh from the imagination of a seven-year-old, or condors, he's still undecided.

Four Westlake Park (www.fourwestlakepark.com) is a twenty story office building on Houston's Westside and is owned and managed by Crescent Real Estate Equities. When Assistant Property Manager Becky Nickell asked if he would like to exhibit his work in the lobby, Stephen wasn't immediately impressed. Leaving school and heading to West Houston during peak rush hour is recipe for sleep, especially after a long day of battling sight words and counting beads. He was still sleepy as he arrived at the building, a bit dazed as he admired the work of an artist whose work was still on display. Overall not unruly, the true Stephen came to life as he exited the building – dozens of buzzards circled overhead. It seems the large birds have set up residence on the buildings South end. Suddenly, Stephen was very impressed with the location of his next exhibition.

This being his third solo show in addition to several group shows, Stephen has the drill down. When showing his work, he wears black, introduces visitors to his work, and puts a red dot on the place card when a piece sells. He seems to be using a lot of dots lately, with his March 2005 show **Six** a surprising sell-out. He's consistently placing his work in the homes and offices of friends and admirers.

Stephen has attended art classes at Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, but he's taking a break from these at the moment. In addition to attending the elementary program of Montessori Country Day School, he is also working with the Vision Learning Center of Bellaire Family Eye Clinic, and a close family friend, Paula Patterson, is working alongside him in school most weekdays to help him focus his academic efforts. With so much effort geared towards learning to read and organize his school work, his art is a welcome change of pace.

Look for Stephen around town this spring. He and Kathy Biddle are joining forces for a group show in February at Houston Foundry. During March their studio will be open during Inner Corridor Art Open Studios (www.innercorridorart.com) and also during openings held as part of Fotofest2006 (www.fotofest.org) . Susan Kirchman Gallery (www.kirchmangallery.com) in Johnson City, Texas will feature his work during the month of April with an artist reception as well, followed by this exhibition at Four Westlake Park.

Seven Opens on Thursday, May 4, 2005. The exhibition is open to the public weekdays from 9am-4pm and closes on Friday, May 26th when Stephen turns eight.

What: Art Exhibition
When: Weekdays, May 4-26, 9am-4pm.
Where: Four Westlake Park, Houston, Texas

For information on Stephen and his art please contact Paul Sumrall, 713-283-8445, 11710 Braewick Drive, Houston TX 77035, or visit www.sumrallorsak.com.

For information or directions to Four Westlake Park please contact Becky Nickell at 281-293-7876 or visit www.fourwestlakepark.com.