

Four-test
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by Middle Tennessee State
Sports, 1B

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The Daily Herald.

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12A LIFESTYLES THE DAILY HERALD ♦ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2008

Former Columbian to host show on Travel Channel

'Art Attack'
premieres
Nov. 30

Special to The Herald

While local builder Russell Sandstead was designing and building energy efficient homes, his son Lee was traipsing around the world, camping out in cemeteries and in front of historic monuments.

The younger Sandstead's unusual pastime was born of his love of art and has resulted in something his dad never expected to see.

"The kid actually has his own television show now," Sandstead, the elder said.

Lee Sandstead is a Middle Tennessee State University alum whose life changed the day he took his first art-history class.

"That class showed me a world I never knew existed, and ever since, I've been on one grand art adventure after another, scouring the world for great art," Sandstead said.

The former Columbia resident was approached by Travel Channel producers last year to film a pilot about his adventures in art. When it aired in December, network executives were so impressed with viewer

SCHEDULE

- Sunday 11/30
8 a.m. - Smithsonian American Art Museum, D.C.
- 8:30 a.m. - National Gallery of Art, D.C.
- Sunday 12/7
8 a.m. - The Frick Collection, New York
- 8:30 a.m. - Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York
- Sunday 12/14
8 a.m. - Walters Art Museum, Baltimore
- 8:30 a.m. - Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Sunday 12/21
8 a.m. - Norton Simon Museum of Art, Pasadena, Calif.
- 8:30 a.m. - Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Calif.

response they asked Sandstead to host a series.

The first season of "Art Attack with Lee Sandstead" airs on the Travel Channel beginning Nov. 30. "Art Attack" will follow Sandstead to museums around the country where he will explain the history and importance of selected art works.

"This first season will be one heck of a raucous ride through America's top museums," Sandstead said. "It will include upbeat

music, quick cuts and great camera moves — the show has it all."

Sandstead is an art professor at Founders College in Virginia and guest lecturer at more than 30 other major institutions including Harvard and Yale. He said he never dreamed of becoming a television host or an art professor when he was a boy in Columbia.

"I was raised in a house trailer, and we were certainly not sitting around talking about art and high culture," he said. "Looking at art is not one of the 'coolest' things a young man in Middle Tennessee could be doing with his time."

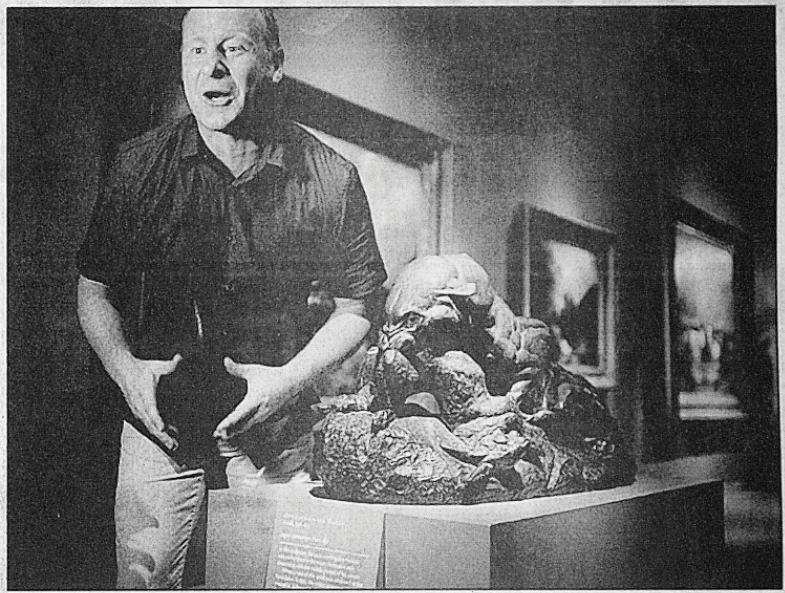
But, Sandstead explained, he not only found an interest in art, but also a beautiful French girlfriend who supports him in his interest.

"She told me it was OK I was such a complete dork," Sandstead said. "Down came the NASCAR posters and up went the Rembrandts."

Since then, Sandstead has been entertaining his university students with these early stories from his life to persuade them to give art a chance.

"That's where "Art Attack" comes in. "Lee will help give our viewers a fresh way to enjoy and learn about art," said Travel Channel executive producer Charlie Parson.

It is his own blue-collar, country background that



Courtesy photos

Lee Sandstead, above, discusses an art work at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Md. At right, Sandstead stands in the classic entrance to the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, Mass.

Sandstead hopes will draw the average American to the show and get them out to the museums.

Will the viewer like every single artwork on the show? "Heck no," Sandstead said. "But tune in, give it a chance, and I guarantee that I can get you fired-up for art!"

