



South Boston's Fired-Up Art Expert on the Travel Channel

by Emily Jenkins

When South Boston resident Lee Sandstead discusses his grand art adventure, he usually shares a tale about traveling around the world in search of great,



forgotten artwork. But this November 30th, the world's most-fired up art historian is embarking on his greatest art escapade of all—TV—when the first full season of *Art Attack with Lee Sandstead* debuts on the Travel Channel.

When asked what this means to a small-town Southern boy from Tennessee, Sandstead chuckles. "I certainly never saw myself hosting a TV show. I was raised in a house trailer and we absolutely weren't sitting around talking about art and high culture. We were wondering if the pipes were going to freeze during the winter or if an open oven was a satisfactory work-around for a broken furnace!"

Sandstead first discovered art in his early 20s with the help of a beautiful French woman. Since then it has been a non-stop, 24-hour ride, despite the fact that his early love for art wasn't necessarily supported by his university. "Middle Tennessee State University was gracious enough to give the art history department one classroom in the agricultural building," he says, laughing. But upon entering the building's lobby, the art lover was greeted by a decomposing horse skeleton, and a couch that could either be used for sitting, or—with the hole cut in the side—Oh well, the creative mind could run away with all sorts of possibilities, and Lee's probably did.

It is his blue-collar, middle-America background, that Sandstead draws from in the series as he travels to museums around the world and examines five must-see art works. Instead of dealing with the usual tried-and-true and oh so familiar masterpieces, Sandstead uncovers often forgotten or never discovered stories behind the pieces he examines.

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

