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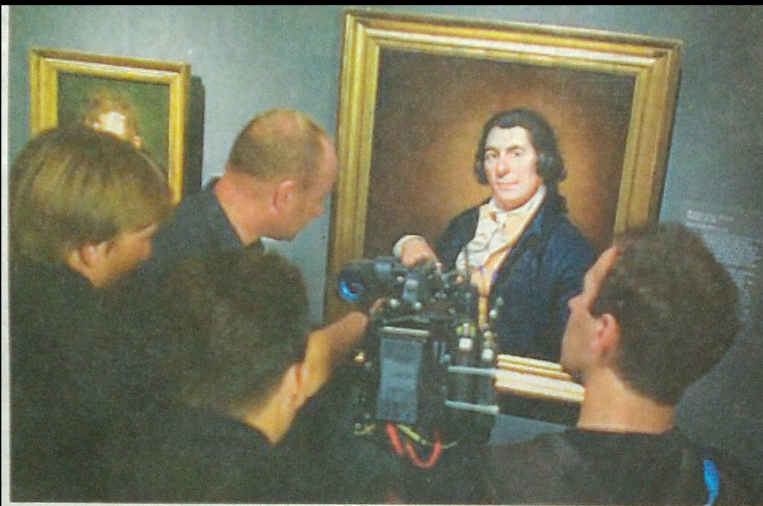


Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Lee Sandstead examines art in numerous museums across the globe in his new television show on the Travel Channel.

Travel Channel premieres alumni 'art attack' show

By EMMA EGLI
Staff Writer

An MTSU alumni now has an international show on the Travel Channel called "Art Attack," which allows him to visit some of the most well known museums in America. Lee Sandstead, an art historian, took an in-depth look at five must-see pieces in each episode. The museums he visited for research included the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington D.C. and the Frick Collection in New York.

"We had such a great time shooting [Art Attack]," Sandstead said. "Filming was so intense [because] one day of shooting could last up to 12 hours and the end result was a

22 minute long episode."

Sandstead received his Bachelor in Arts in Philosophy, a Bachelor in Science in Mass Communications from MTSU and was given the prestigious award for Outstanding Magazine Journalism Graduate in 1996. It wasn't until he came back to get his masters in journalism that he discovered an interest in art while



taking an art history class.

"The professor of the class gave me a love for art, so I went to a lecture on art history," Sandstead said. "We were told to think about light, texture, shadow and things I had never thought about."

"After that I went home and put up prints of art from floor to ceiling on all my walls, and from there, I just grew with art," Sandstead said.

Sandstead has taught art history at numerous colleges and universities, including City College and New Paltz in New York, as well as Monclair State University in New Jersey. His lectures on art history and art

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appreciation have also been heard nationally and internationally.

Sandstead said he hopes that he can persuade viewers to give art a chance and get out and visit a museum.

"Looking at art wasn't one of the cool things to do when I was a young man at MT," Sandstead said. "I got picked on all the time by my friends, but my French girlfriend always used to tell me that art

is cool and it's ok to be a dork and like it."

Sandstead said one of his greatest career goals, as an art historian was to take photographs of 19th century art and capture the timelessness and beauty of the unappreciated art.

"There's a huge problem with how art history is taught today," Sandstead said in an interview on his Web site. "Art history from the 19th century has been buried by a very modernist academia, so the art from only 150 years ago hasn't been studied and books haven't been written

on one of the greatest periods of man's time on this earth."

Sandstead's Web site features thousands of photographs of art that he has taken in museums all over the country, as well as the world. Sandstead's next project includes writing the first book on 19th century master-sculptor, Evelyn Beatrice Longman.

"I never imagined that I would end up hosting a TV show," Sandstead said. "It's hard to express how much I've enjoyed filming it."