

For Immediate Press Release  
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The Father/Son Art Exhibit –For Father’s Day and Beyond  
June 18 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Minnetonka Center for the Arts

On June 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm the Father/Son Art Exhibit opens at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and runs through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Traditionally fathers take their sons to work, show them what dad does, and perhaps start teaching the trade. The Father-Son art project starts here, but goes in new directions. The fathers in this show are professional artists, introducing sons to what they do; but the purpose is different. As part of the modern era, father-parenting goes beyond the older and more traditional realms of father/son activities. In this show fathers and sons work, study, imagine and create together. The sons will be introduced to the commerce of producing and selling art; and they will experience their personal artistic expressions on public view. But the aim is not to push the kids into becoming the next generation of artists. High quality art and fun are the short term goals. Building relationships between the fathers and sons via this shared endeavor – creating a cool memory to share – is the main point. For the public, this exhibition should offer several perspectives of interest:

- A shared artistic stage –where the sons work is given equal presentation
- Father-Son collaborations, including a collaboration of all the artists
- Guided tours by the sons during the opening to share their process and insights
- Distinct Father-Son and Son-Father lines of artistic influence
- Visual evidence of how Fathers and Sons build bonds
- Raw and refined art side by side

So, a walk through this gallery will be a unique opportunity to study the creative process and the sociology of father-son relationships. It will also be an opportunity to contrast what the adults and children think about and try to say as they engage in creative expression. Finally, the children’s art has been intentionally elevated from the refrigerator to a professional gallery and placed along-side practiced artists. While children’s art lacks technical mastery, the raw human drive for expression is more discernable and as such, is given equal footing in this exhibition. In the words of John Schuerman, Father-artist in the show, “I think the art of children ten and under, before they learn the rules of art, provide a unique view into the human need for creative expression. Kids like to draw like fish like to swim. Pictures made without any knowledge of perspective, color theory, or what things ‘should look like’ show the natural human, intuitive attempt to make sense of the characters and objects around us.”

At the opening you are encouraged to talk with the artists, take a guided tour by one or more of the artists, play with the play-appropriate art pieces, and participate in the general discussion of the evening.

The Father-Son artists:

Irve Dell and Isaac Dell (age 8)  
Michael Kareken and Owen Kareken (age 6)  
David Lefkowitz, Carter Lefkowitz (5), and Emmett Lefkowitz (age 8)  
John Schuerman and Max Folina (age 9)

Irve Dell, sculptor, likes to make ordinary objects and spaces extra ordinary (extraordinary). Isaac Dell: of all the many things he enjoys, drawing is probably at the top of the list.

Michael Kareken's recent paintings are urban landscapes depicting industrial recycling facilities. Owen Kareken is interested in drawing and painting, building with Legos, playing chess, Star Wars, playing the guitar, and learning about dinosaurs.

David Lefkowitz's work in painting, mixed media and installation addresses the blurry boundary between the human-built environment and the natural world. Emmett Lefkowitz particularly enjoys creating and drawing aliens and super-beings. Carter Lefkowitz primary interests at the moment are U.S. geography, license plates, and Field Guides of animals, plants, and weather.

John Schuerman is a self-taught artist who paints natural patterns, their abstract energies, and their interaction with human endeavor. Max Folina (son of John Schuerman) likes to draw and write fictional stories of dragons, beasts and knights.

For more information, links to artwork, and contact info: [www.schuermanfineart.com](http://www.schuermanfineart.com)

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## **HOURS**

Monday & Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Tuesday - Thursday: 9 AM - 9:30 PM  
Saturdays (Sept 6, 2008 - June 14, 2009): 9 AM - 5 PM  
Saturdays (June 27 - Aug. 29, 2009): 9 AM - 1 PM  
Closed Sundays

