



untitled — on page 40 in the catalogue (2006), watercolor, ink, torn newspaper on archival watercolor paper, 5” x 8”
from the series “Lifestyle Art Project: Thailand”

Making Art on the Run: the travel-inspired work of Steven P. Perkins

Steven P. Perkins’ collages incorporate elements of his environment, filtered through a thoughtful and provocative mind, resulting in aesthetically pleasing and intellectually engaging compositions. His art expresses ideas in a way that tends to open up a dialogue with his audience.

In his “Angels of Jazz” series Perkins juxtaposed images of musicians with abstracted visual realizations of their work, questioning the relationship between the personal biography of a man and the timeless expression of his music.



Every Day is Mardi Gras [Louis "Pops" Armstrong] (2001), mixed media on canvas, 30" x 40", from the series "Angels of Jazz"

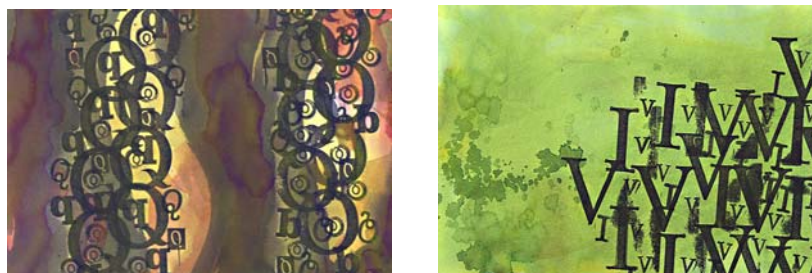


Monster Piano [Thelonious Monk] (2001), mixed media on canvas, 30" x 40", from the series "Angels of Jazz"



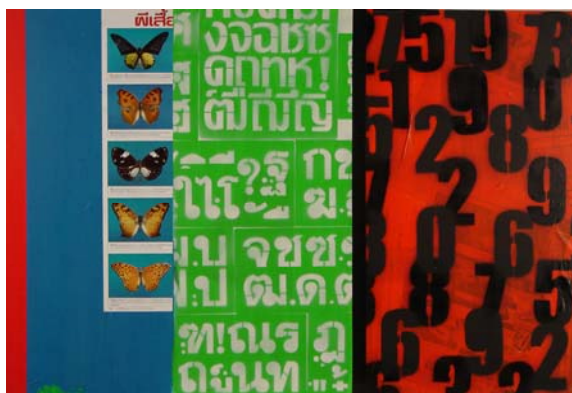
Free, or Not [Ornette Coleman](2004), mixed media on canvas, 30" x 40", from the series "Angels of Jazz"

In his recent acclaimed works of “Sfumato,” the artist playfully repeats some of the most basic icons of our world – Latin letter shapes – within a sensual Mediterranean palette, reveling in the semantic possibilities of a single letter.



left: *untitled_Q* (2006); right: *untitled_IV* (2006)
watercolor, rubber stamp ink on archival watercolor paper
from the series “sfumato”

And now comes the Lifestyle Art Project: Thailand, the first in a projected series that will bring Perkins’ unique perspective to new locations.



The Economy of Flight (Butterflies are Free) (2006), mixed media on canvas, 100cm x 150cm,
from the series “Lifestyle Art Project: Thailand”

The audience for the Lifestyle Art Project is twofold: local and foreign. For Thais, the works are a showcase for the artist’s sensibilities, a continuation of Perkins’ oeuvre in a new context. For foreigners, the works summarize the experience of a traveler more succinctly than any book or slideshow could. It will be fascinating to note what elements each of these audiences will seize on.

Thailand offers a bounty of new colors and forms for Perkins to incorporate into his signature collages. The palette is much warmer, and the icons of the region include elephants and Buddhas. Perkins also tantalizes us with characters from the Thai alphabet, elegant lines and curves that are so pregnant with the potential for meaning.



Wat (2006) mixed media on canvas, diptych 200cm x 80cm
from the series "Lifestyle Art Project: Thailand"

Wat (2006) features the paper-thin gold foil that visitors to local temples can purchase to apply to statues of the Buddha. In that context, the foil represents both an assertion of value and an invitation to participate in worship. With the Lifestyle Art Project: Thailand, Perkins extends a similar invitation to explore new continents with him, and to find beauty in new experiences.

Jack Cheng earned his PhD in History of Art from Harvard University and writes for academic and general audiences from his home in Boston.

for more information: www.lifestyleartproject.com

and the online portfolio of Steve Perkins: www.originalmind.com