

## Kansas City's Music, Dining and Entertainment Magazine



KANSAS CITY'S MUSIC, DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE - FREE!

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# ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

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### The Dimino effect

The perfect blend of abstract, color, kid art, photography Joe Dimino has always appreciated the finer arts. A poet, a painter, a photographer, Dimino, 33, has spent a lifetime knowing what his true passions were. He just needed a little kick-start to bring those passions to fruition. Kansas City artist Joe Dimino doesn't mind framing himself occasionally. But he'd rather show off his art. And he'll get that chance. Dimino has a half dozen shows slated for 2006, with more on the horizon. After a pow-wow with an old friend, and on the heels of the birth of his first son, Miles, Dimino decided to finally make art a priority in his life.



## Fine Arts

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After a pow-wow with an old friend, and on the heels of the birth of his first son, Miles, Dimino decided to finally make art a priority in his life.

"About this time last year, I sat down with Kato (manager, friend, confidant) to decide whether I was going to focus on poetry or painting and photography," Dimino said. "That's really when it happened - full on, right there. A year after the fact, it is really materializing."

Dimino's biggest project - Photo Paint - is earning him acclaim in the community and scoring him shows in some of the hottest spots in KC.

His Photo Paint project incorporates both photography and painting, and is displayed in a way that may take some old-school artists by surprise.

"I know some people paint off of photographs, but it's not all one piece," Dimino said. "This is expressionism kind of painting. I take a picture, and then I'm painting my interpretation of the picture."

"When I was starting to make this Web site, I thought, how am I going to brand this? I wanted it to be something special. People can buy the photography or they can buy the painting, or they can buy both.

"My whole thing is, I like to take pictures of the world around me. I like to call it decorating life into something more attractive. We all live this regular life, not some charmed existence."

While Dimino has been featured in a handful of shows over the past five years, 2006 ought to be ultimate coming out party.

In January and February, Dimino is the featured artist at The Mojo Collection, 2009 Baltimore. His opening night reception is Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

From Feb. 5 through March 3, Dimino's art will be the centerpiece at the Unitarian Gallery - All Souls Church, 4501 Walnut in Kansas City. The opening reception for that show is Feb. 5 from 1-3 p.m.

Also in February and March, Dimino's art will don the walls of Muddy's Coffeehouse, 318 E. 51 St., in Kansas City, and will be featured at the trendy Room 39, 1719 W. 39th St., in Kansas City, during the month of March.

"I want to have consistent shows throughout the year," Dimino said. "I've had sporadic shows from 1999 to 2001, but now I want this to be a full-on gig. I want this to be my focal point. I am at a point now after 33 years I feel like I am putting out good work and I want people to see my good work. I don't want to ever have to worry about being fired or being laid off."

Dimino's art will also be a part of the Kansas City, Kan., Public Library's main branch collection from June 19-July 14.

"I've completely saturated myself with people locally and people nationally to get people to see my art and my images," Dimino said. "The idea is to let people know exactly who I am."

As diverse as the man himself, Dimino's art is not limited to his Photo Paint project. He's created an extensive collection of Kid Art, abstraction, portrait interpretation, life and Americana using acrylic, wood, oil, canvass, watercolor and whatever he finds during his wanderings through life.

"Then there's all these other pieces that I've put together over the years, and Kid Art is part of that," Dimino said. "It's fun, it's playful, it's me. It's completely who I am. And that's art, it's about who you are and putting yourself on the line. When people look at your art, they should see who you are. It should be a real reflection of your life."

And a reflection of Dimino, who said if he were doing a timeline of his artistic life, it would be in its earliest stages.

"We would be in the beginning," he admitted. "I am coming into a project that is materializing and forming. It would almost be a B.C. period. I want to evolve this. The idea is it will continue to be an interpretation of everything. You could be like Hootie and the Blowfish and fade away and have no one give a crap about what you did. Or you could be the Beatles. They evolved and incorporated so many new aspects to their music."

One of his creations, "Snapshot: Instants idealized" has been specifically created for corporate settings, and his goal is for others to enjoy what his art brings to offices and hospitals.

"It would be cool to have a place that likes it enough to commission me to do it and have it there," Dimino said. "There is just so much to learn about all this."

Much like the man himself, Dimino said artists need to let their inhibitions go and ground themselves in their work.

"I think there are a lot of artists that are completely cool, but a certain segment of them that are way too serious and uptight. Some artists are geniuses in their own head.

"You have make yourself sellable. Whether you tweak your artwork a little bit or your approach a little bit, whatever it takes. They are buying your personality as much as they are buying the artwork."

» Story by **John Beaudoin**

» Photos by **Jeff Stead**