



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

His Serene Highness Becomes American Artist Exhibition Opens February 12, 2008 Gallery Talk and Book Signing, Artini: April 17, 2008, 7 pm Family Day: Tour and Shrinky Dinks Workshop, April 19, 2008

Missoula, MT / January 25, 2008 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / Andrew Romanoff was once destined to become the Czar of Russia; instead, he became an exiled prince who spent his childhood growing up in Windsor Castle before boarding a boat to come to the United States. Currently living in San Francisco, Romanoff paints, draws and then shrinks his works of art by more than half, creating a unique, utterly original artwork that is firmly rooted in the traditions of Folk Art.

Andrew Romanoff is the nephew of Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II. Had the Bolshevik Revolution turned out differently, Romanoff would be in the line to rule Russia. Instead, his family was exiled to England, before Romanoff was born, in order to escape persecution. Romanoff's artwork depicts his childhood growing up in Windsor Castle, interacting with the Queen and King, and his adventures which led him to settle in the United States.

The medium which Romanoff uses is called Shrinky Dinks. Usually reserved as a child's toy, this unique plastic has the ability to shrink by two-thirds when cooked in an oven. Because of his medium choice, Romanoff's artwork is considered to be "outsiders' art", a term used to describe so-called naive artists who work on the outside of the mainstream art world, typically using unusual techniques or materials.

Romanoff's work will be displayed at the MAM from February 12 - April 26, 2008. A Gallery Talk and Book Signing at Artini: Shrinky Dinks on April 17, 2008, will feature Romanoff's book The Boy Who Would Be Czar: The Art of Prince Andrew Romanoff and will allow the audience to interact with the artist and learn more about this unique man and his artwork. MAM Family Day, on April 19, will include an exhibit tour and Shrinky Dinks Workshop. Images and text courtesy of Gallery 16, San Francisco.

Contact: Stephen Glueckert, Curator of Exhibitions

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. MAM educates, challenges and inspires the community through contemporary art. MAM preserves our emerging cultural heritage through the development and conservation of its art collection. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 11AM-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.