

JAMES RIZZI

American artist born in Brooklyn, New York (1950-2011)

James Rizzi studied art at the University of Florida (Gainesville) where he were taught the three main disciplines : painting, sculpture and printmaking. Unlike most artists who choose one of these three art forms, James Rizzi wanted to combine all three.

He made all kinds of experiments and a few years later he mastered his technique by combining screen printing, hand cutting of paper and relief.

He draws as children do and his style becomes a brand image. Each of his images has enough vitality and humor to compete with Woody Allen. Manhattan is portrayed in the 1970s to the 2000s, in all the glory of its decadent ascent.

James Rizzi describes himself as an "urban primitive" referring to images of his happy childhood in Brooklyn. A harmonious family life and the sense of celebration inherited from his grandfather, an Italian emigrant, strongly influenced the themes of his works. The ethnic diversity of his neighborhood, the crowd, New York buildings and the Coney Island funfair will be recurring themes in his work.

It represents most of the time freely improvised facetious situations of life, love, sport or children's games and simultaneously the apology and parody of urban life

In 1976 he participated in the exhibition "Thirty Years of American Graphic Arts" at the Brooklyn Museum in New York with Jim Dine, Roy Liechtenstein and Andy Warhol. James Rizzi gained international notoriety.

His work has been widely exhibited in the United States, Europe and Asia.

In 1987, he was the subject of two short films produced for Japanese television.

The Lufthansa airline commissioned him to paint the exterior of a Boeing 757 in 1996.

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne offered him a solo exhibition on the theme of sport that same year.

In 1997 he was the official Montreux Jazz Festival artist and in 1998 he was invited to participate and exhibit at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Four art books were dedicated to him (1988,1992,1996,2006).

James Rizzi is one of the most popular American artists. He has developed with his "sculptures" of paper in 3 dimensions a personal style that, although imitated, has never been equaled.

His untimely death at the age of 61 shocked millions of fans around the world.

SELECTION OF SPECIAL PROJECTS from 1975 to 2011

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2011 Realization of the interior and exterior design of the "Bamboo" concept car for Ringspeed

2010 Subject to numerous honorific and retrospective events in Germany

2008 First artist to have created at the request of the Deutsch Post four official stamps

2008 Entry into the "Artexpo Hall of Fame", New York

2008 Design of a 10 Euros banknote with the agreement of the European Central Bank

- 2007** "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the University of Florida at Gainesville.
2007 Realization of the album cover "Soundz of Freedom" for Bob Sinclar
- 2006** Publication of the 4th book "James Rizzi - Artwork 1993-2006" by Glenn O'Brien and Mark Weinberg
- 2002** Invited to participate at the World Economic Forum which was held exceptionally that year in New York.
- 2001** Realization of an identity campaign for Siemens corporation in commemoration of their entry to the New York Stock Exchange
- 1998** Invited to participate and exhibit at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland
1998 Official Artist of the World Cup in France.
Exterior decoration of three "New Beetle" for Volkswagen.
- 2000** Realization of a promotional campaign for the Japanese railways.
- 1999** Design of 3 "Happy House" buildings that were built in Braunschweig, Germany, for the Hannover 2000 Exhibition.
- 1997** Creator of the official Montreux Jazz Festival poster, Montreux.
- 1996** Exterior decoration of a Boeing 757 for the 40th anniversary of Lufthansa's charter airline, Condor Airlines.
1996 Personal exhibition at the Olympic Museum Lausanne on the theme of sport
1996 Publication of the 3rd book "The New York Paintings"
- 1994** Design of a limited edition of vases, candle holders, decorative boxes for Studio Rosenthal.
1994 Official Artist of the American Olympic Committee.
1994 Official Artist of the Atlanta Olympic Committee.
- 1992** Publication of the second book "Rizzi" preface by Glen O'Brien
- 1991** Invitation to tender for interior design at La Guardia Airport, New York.
- 1988** Publication of the first book "James Rizzi-3D constructions"
- 1987** Realization of the album cover "Funky man" for Dee Dee King.
- 1983** Realization of a musical video based on Rizzi's drawings, "Genius of Love" for the Tom Tom Club
- 1981** Realization of a musical video based on Rizzi's drawings, "Pleasure of Love" for the Tom Tom Club
- 1980** Realization of the cover of Tom Tom Club's first album, New York.
- 1975** 45 m long outdoor mural: Eric's Bar & Grill, New York