

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## ART ABOUND ALL AROUND TOWN

November 9, 1997

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Post-Dispatch Art Critic

Everyday Magazine  
Page: D3  
(reproduction)

Speaking of smug irony, a press release for the current show at the third-floor gallery of Mossa Center declared it "truly the avant-garde event of the season."

In the words of the robot from "Lost in Space": Danger, Will Robinson! Danger!

Danger, indeed. Much of this four-artist show features work that is either slapdash and confused or sophomoric in tone. When one of the participants paints a Mr. T doll and places it on a small platform in the middle of a room, the act actually serves to make a postmodern sculptor like Jeff Koons - a man that critic Robert Hughes once claimed "couldn't carve his name into the side of a tree" - appear to be a modern-day Michelangelo.

Oh, but lest I forget that it's irony and kitsch and all that other hip stuff. Stuff that, incidentally, found itself completely played out by the early '70s. But that doesn't seem to matter.

There is some potential here, ho! wever, when the young quartet ignores pretension and shoots for a personal originality rather than a fabricated one. Then again, maybe I just don't get it . . . back here holding down the rear guard, and all.

"Subtitled: Steve Stacy, Adam Watkins, John Watson and **Kevin Wingate**," Mossa Center, 1214 Washington Avenue, 241-5199, through Nov. 14.