

PRINCETON Tigers



sculpture

This catalog was published in conjunction with the exhibition
Princeton Tigers at the Cranbury Station Gallery in Princeton,
NJ

May 28 - June 30, 2009

© 2009, George Thaddeus Saj. All rights reserved.

Design: musedesigngroup.com

Front Cover: THE GRADUATE, painted wood. 2007. 14" x 13"

PRINCETON Tigers

sculptures by George Thaddeus Saj

May 28 - June 30, 2009

Cranbury Station Gallery
28 Palmer Square East
Princeton, NJ 08542

The Princeton Tigers were inspired by real and imagined campus personalities. They are not meant to portray specific individuals but rather they are formed from characteristics observed in various personages.

They might remind you of the students you were, the adults you became, or the caricatures you hope not to embody. They might evoke the memory of a particular professor, a special friend, an admired sports hero, or an almost forgotten heartthrob... or even let you recall your splendid achievements and your small disillusion.

But mostly, I hope, they will make you smile and remember your college days.



CO-ED PANTHERA TIGRIS

painted wood, 2009, 14" x 12"

An Anthropology major, with an emphasis on Women's Studies, this co-ed espouses feminist causes during the week and hunts Princeton tigers on the weekend. She considers it her enlightened empowerment.



CAMPUS POET

painted wood, 2004, 14" x 12"

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright,
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry.

Wm. Blake (1757-1827)



FRESHMAN TIGER

painted wood, 2009, 12" x 10"

This high school valedictorian and star athlete has just learned that the incoming Princeton class includes not only 160 Merit Scholars, but valedictorians and athletes by the dozen. Hence his slightly vacant, pensive look.



SHERE KHAN PANTHERA TIGRIS

painted wood, 2008, 15" x 14"

A celebrated professor of Deconstructionist Theory, a disciple of Jacques Derrida, who attempted to explain the "strategy of critical analysis directed towards exposing unquestioned metaphysical assumptions and internal contradictions in philosophic and literary language" to several generations of Princeton undergraduates. He did not succeed.



SOPHOMORE TIGER

painted wood, 2009, 12" x 11"

He is anxiously awaiting the results of the bicker selection process to one of the premier eating clubs at Princeton. If chosen, he will praise the system warmly for preserving tradition, creating friendships and fostering a sense of community. If not chosen, he will feign indifference, claim he is actually a vegetarian and prefers to dine independently.



BENGAL TIGER

painted wood, 2003, 12" x 10.5"

A dainty and decorative exponent of his species, this tiger arrived on campus with perfect SAT scores and an insatiable thirst for learning. He became a Princeton Brahmin.



ACCIDENTAL FEMME FATALE

painted wood, 2009, 14" x 12"

During a memorable Saturday football victory party at the Tiger Inn, this usually demure, self-possessed little blonde celebrated by performing a sensual, exotic tabletop dance.

The effect was electric and her legend was born. She spent the rest of her time at Princeton trying to live it down.



VLADIMIR SIBERIAN TIGER

painted wood, 2009, 14" x 12"

This Russian exchange graduate student, a Philosophy major, was accustomed by the long Arctic winters of his homeland to suffering cold, hunger and loneliness. However, by the end of his first semester at Princeton he shed his melancholy air, acquired an American girlfriend, and changed his major to Economics. Additionally, he became widely sought after as a rapper on political themes.



TIGRIS SOPHISTICATUS

painted wood, 2005, 13" x 11.5"

This worldly, learned, articulate Princeton tiger of refined tastes, was a member of the Ivy Club. But his excessive self-consciousness and brittle snobbery kept him from tasting passion or desire.



CAMPUS CONNOISSEUR

painted wood, 2009, 14" x 12"

He arrived at Princeton searching for the best in all aspects of our civilization - in scholarship, art, literature, and science and, not least, in culinary matters.

He lavished nearly as much time and care on choosing his eating club as he did on deciding upon the major subjects of his study. Not surprisingly he chose Philosophy, with an emphasis on the teachings of Epicurus in order to achieve tranquility in his life. And he was successful, until he ran for Congress and won.



THE GRADUATE

painted wood, 2007, 14" x 13"

This Princeton tigress is posing for her graduation picture and sending out resumés to potential employers. She wishes to project just the right combination of eager ambition and savvy grit, hence her clear-eyed gaze and bared teeth.



PANTHERA TIGRIS ALUMNUS

painted wood, 2009, 16" x 15"

University Trustees are generally chosen according to their ability to increase the institution's wealth or prestige. This Princeton alumnus made it solely on his good looks. The combination of his large clear eyes and magnificent whiskers were simply irresistible.



PRINCETON TIGRIS EMERITUS

painted wood & metal, 2004, 14" x 12"

In spite of having suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, this aging veteran retains his sense of optimistic humor by remembering his glory days at Princeton when he was swift and fearless and his joints did not creak.



PANTHERA TIGRIS ROMANTICUS

painted wood, 2004, 13" x 11"

Poet, scholar, adventurer, raconteur, bon vivant:
a tiger for all seasons.

In their heart of hearts, this is that animal most
Princetonians secretly aspire to become.

Some achieve it; most believe, against all odds,
that they did.



IVORY TOWER TIGER

painted wood, 2009, 15" x 12"

He's a learned, somewhat self-absorbed professor of arcana in the biological sciences and author of the definitive study of the gastrointestinal tract of the salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum*. He became used to dispirited students taking his course merely to satisfy curriculum requirements. But now and again, when a student displays interest and even competence in the subject, his hope is restored.



PANTHERA TIGRIS $e=mc^2$

painted wood, 2009, 14" x 12"

Any intelligent fool can make things
bigger and more complex
It takes a touch of genius --
and a lot of courage -- to move in the
opposite direction.

A. Einstein



George Thaddeus Saj is a New Jersey artist who lives and works in Montclair, where he practiced surgery for 31 years. His formal art education started at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts and continued at Dartmouth College. However, having always planned to be doctor like his father, he enrolled in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. After residency training and service as a staff surgeon at a U.S. Army hospital in Danang, Viet Nam, he settled in New Jersey. Since his retirement from surgery Saj has returned to art full time. His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in Cleveland, Chicago, New York and New Jersey. The University of Southern Florida has a collection of his bull masks featured prominently on the campus, in celebration of their sports team: The Bulls. To find out more about the artist or see additional works please visit www.georgesaj.com.

George Thaddeus Saj



Cranbury Station Gallery

28 Palmer Square East

Princeton, NJ 08542