

# Jason Lazarus Rises at Expo Chicago

The local photographer's exhibit should be your first stop at the art fair

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*Above Sigmund Freud's Couch* (left), *Spencer Elden In His Last Year In High School* (January 2008) (top right), and *Wall of Fire, Labor Day, 2006* (Cleveland, OH) (bottom right).

Chicago has seen its share of art fairs come and go, but this month's Expo Chicago, led by former Art Chicago VP Tony Karman, promises a fresh start. More so than its predecessors, Expo makes an effort to highlight local talent while showcasing top-tier international galleries. Among the featured Chicagoans is the photographer Jason Lazarus (pictured at right), a Columbia College grad who first found success in 2006 with a series of self-portraits at the Museum of Contemporary Art.



With Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Lazarus will install *Sarasota Photomat: Lindsey, Teenage-Goth One-Hour Photo Technician, 1997-2000*, an ambitious archive that reveals a new side to his work. In contrast to his self-portraits, *Sarasota* provides a voyeuristic look into the lives of countless strangers who dropped their film off at a Florida photo processor more than a decade ago. The Lindsey of the title is Lazarus's friend—and the employee who pinched the photos. "For me, it's a portrait of Lindsey; for everyone else, it's a portrait of that person who had access to their personal photos," he says. Meanwhile, his archival project *Too Hard to Keep* recently landed at the Philadelphia Photo Art Center and the International Biennial of Photography and Visual Arts in Liège, Belgium.