



*Mom and Pop Art, 1999*  
©The Simpsons

Julie Goergen

**FICTIONAL ARTISTS IN AMERICAN TV SHOWS**



# AFSOUN HAMIDI

\*Character from "Dr. House" (2004)  
S07E23

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Performance artist.

Look-alikes: ABRAMOVIC, ORLAN, GUERRILA GIRLS.

Her work explores gender politics and self-image.

She exploits her illness for its artistic potential.

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

- McArthur Genius Grant.
- Retrospective at the Tate Modern.
- Exhibition at the New Museum (N.Y)

## BIOGRAPHY / EPISODE RECAPS:

Afsoun Hamidi is the performance artist patient in the episode Moving On (S07E23). She saw her mom commit suicide and was abused by her stepfather for years; she took that pain and transformed it into art. Afsoun believes that explaining her work limits its potential. Hamidi collapsed during a performance piece after being doused in paint thinner and threatened with a match. Her assistant, Luca intervened against her directions. Luca was blaming himself for not ensuring that the gallery was well ventilated. Dr. Foreman asked Hamidi if she was going to let the man set her on fire, but she dodged the question. Hamidi had made the doctors her latest performance piece. She exploited her illness for its artistic potential. She did blood doping, injecting her own red blood cells, to intrigue Dr. House even if she was really ill. It was a game, a puzzle made for House. "You don't know witch symptoms are real, which are fake and which ones I'm not even telling you about"

## WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAKING OF PROJECT?

The perspective of a direct contact with viewers during creative process is highly stimulating. I hope to force the audience to break with the rational and see things in a new way.

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET FROM THE PROJECT?

I would like to turn one of the Casino's exhibition rooms in a surgical unit. And use my production budget to hire a surgeon. Making of is also the opportunity to try out a new technique, the so-called "Monkey-mask shaving medium".

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LUXEMBOURG ART SCENE?

The Clinical services are very well developed for such a small country. And you have some of the most talented plastic surgeons artists in the world.

*72 objects Performance, 2004*  
© Afsoun Hamidi





# MATT HARTLEY

\*Character from "Ugly Betty" (2010)  
S04E09

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Painter.  
LUCIAN FREUD look-alike (Late period)  
Psychological penetration  
Artist / model relationship  
He only paints his muse, Betty.

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

Emerging Artists at Axelles FINE ART GALLERY

## BIOGRAPHY / EPISODE RECAPS:

The Passion of the Betty

Betty goes to an art gallery to talk to its curator, Frances, about having Matt's paintings displayed. Frances sees Matt's paintings, but refuses to showcase them, saying that there is not enough «energy» in them. When Matt appears, Betty tells him to go to lunch, so she can continue her meeting with Frances. Frances finds some artworks good enough to showcase and Betty agrees without having seen them. Betty and Matt arrive at the art gallery, despite Matt insisting that they go home; Betty goes in with him and is shocked to see the paintings are all of her. Matt tells Betty that he painted them when they were broken up. Matt is furious that Betty publicized his personal paintings and he leaves, saying that Betty is not passionate enough for him.

## WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAKING OF PROJECT?

My fondness for cheesy popcorn and movies!

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET FROM THE PROJECT?

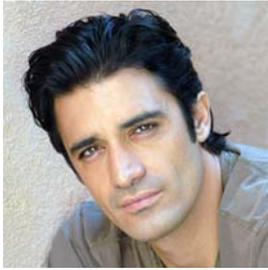
Actually, I am not that much into Art anymore. Painting was a way to deal with my break-up, at the time. It was part of the healing process you see. I think I'll use this time to focus on my writing. I am sport reviewer. The "Wort" already assigned me a weekly column about cycling. I hope to be very productive.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LUXEMBOURG ART SCENE?

I heard there is a local talent for Landscapes. I am looking forward to discover them while playing Golf. You see, Golf is one of my latest passions.

Medusa, 2010  
© Matt Hartley





# LUC LAURENT

\*Character from "Brothers & Sisters" (2006)  
S04E04, S05E19

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Painter.  
Color Field / Abstract Expressionism  
Large scale vivid paintings

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

Exhibition "Un nouveau départ"  
The Times want to do a profile on him.

## BIOGRAPHY / EPISODE RECAPS:

Luc Laurent, husband of Sarah Walker; painter and former underwear model. Sarah is briefly seen in the premiere explaining she has endured a terrible summer of online dating and retreated to France for a much-needed vacation. She lands back in California with a new French beau, Luc, who helps her question her view on men and relationships. After living together for a short time, he decides to leave again after realizing his free-spirited attitude and her corporate and family lifestyle do not work together. Sarah then meets a single dad at Paige's science fair and the two hit it off. Just as their romance heats up, Sarah is contacted by Luc and realizes she still has feelings for him. After ending things with Roy, she and Luc resume their relationship, which hits yet another obstacle as Luc finds it difficult to renew his visa and faces being deported. In the episode 'Where There's Smoke', Luc wins the lottery to get a green card, however now that their lives have become real the couple begins to have problems, especially concerning Cooper who has been acting out. Luc tells Sarah he needs to define his own relationship with the kids.

## WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAKING OF PROJECT?

The proximity with the «Grund», I plan to catch its unique winter lights on the footsteps of Luxembourgian painter Sosthène Weis.

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET FROM THE PROJECT?

A fresh start as a painter! I will experiment with much smaller scales. Maybe even explore the miniature technique. And as a man, I hope to get better knowledge, and understanding of Luxembourgian folklore and tradition. I will try to learn the local language. I already know one word; it's a good start: Moïen!

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LUXEMBOURG ART SCENE?

I am an unconditional fan of Sosthène Weis (1872-1941) landscapes' watercolors. They are very exotic to me. I have never seen anything like that.

*Luc Laurent's Pasadena Studio, 2010*



## FICTIONAL ARTISTS IN AMERICAN TV SHOWS

CHARACTER	TV SHOW / EPISODES	MEDIUM	STYLE	SPECIFICITIES	RECENT EXHIBITIONS
MIDGE DANIELS	Mad Men (2007) S01E05, S01E06, S01E08, S01E12	Illustrator		- Smart, ambitious art illustrator. - Career woman - In 1965, becomes a junkie.	
CLAIRE FISHER	Six Feet Under (2001) Season 2, 3, 4	Photographer			Life on earth, 2003
AFSOUN HAMIDI	Dr. House (2004) S07E23	Performance artist	- ABRAMOVIC - ORLAN - Chinese Performance Art	- Her work explores gender politics and self-image. - She exploited her illness for it's artistic potential.	- McArthur Genius Grant. - Retrospective at the Tate Modern. - Exhibition at the New Museum (N.Y)
MATT HARTLEY	Ugly Betty (2010) S04E09	Painter	- Late LUCIAN FREUD period - Psychological penetration - Artist / model relationship.		- Axelles FINE ART GALLERY - Emerging Artists
LUC LAURENT	Brothers & Sisters (2006) S04E04 S05E19	Painter	- Color Field - Abstract Expressionism	- Sexy French Painter, - Former underwear model	- Exhibition "Un nouveau départ" - The Times wants to do a profile on him.
JODI LERNER	L Word (2004) Season 4 S04E04	Sculptor Art Professor at Columbia	- SARAH SZE - "I like to be intimate with my objects. Sleep and work at the same place."	- Deaf and Lesbian (she had a relationship with curator Bette Porter).	- Installation at the Hammer Museum
NEVILLE MORGAN	Sex and the City (1998) S01E05	Painter	-The Origin of the World from COURBET	- Series of vaginas' paintings - "Portraits of women who touched my life" - Bold colors.	Exhibition (22:30 - 23:33)
LEIGH OSTIN	L Word (2004) S02E07	Sculptor			- Michael Collin Gallery
LILA TOURNAY	Dexter (2006) Season 2	Sculptor Mixed Media	-Theme of predilection: Cannibalism. - She uses stolen items in her work. "I work with found Art"	- Sociopath and pyromaniac, she sets her studio on fire. About a painting in an hotel room: "This isn't art, it's cottage porn"	
MAXEEN VANDEREST	Weeds (2005) S07E03 - S07E05				



# JODI LERNER

\*Character from "the L Word" (2004)  
Season 4, S04E04

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Sculptor and Art teacher at Columbia  
SARAH SZE Look-alike

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

Installation at the Hammer Museum

## PERSONALITY TYPE:

Outgoing, free, independent spirit, feisty, fun, emotionally healthy.

## BIOGRAPHY / EPISODE RECAPS:

Jodi and Bette fall deeply in love. She is totally committed to Bette. Jodi continues to check Bette's type A personality. Since Jodi is not an insecure and jealous woman, she doesn't see that Tina is trying very hard to dig her claws back into Bette. Will Bette give up the best thing that ever happened to her to go back to someone who offers her nothing in the way of personal growth and maturity? Watch the beautiful and talented Jodi Lerner as season 5 unfolds.

## WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE *MAKING OF* PROJECT?

The more I am afraid of something, the more I know I have to do it.

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET FROM THE PROJECT?

A large open space to work on my next installation. There should be a bed too because I like to be intimate with my objects. Sleep and work at the same place.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LUXEMBOURG ART SCENE?

I don't know much about the Art scene, but I heard Luxembourg had a very nice gay community.



*Installation, 2004*  
© Jodi Lerner



# NEVILLE MORGAN

\*Character from "Sex and the City" (1998) S01E05

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Painter.  
COURBET look-alike (The Origin of the World)  
Series of vagina-portraits,  
«Portraits of women who touched my life»  
Uses bold colors and female models

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

Exhibition at Charlottes' Gallery

## WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE *MAKING OF* PROJECT?

Spending some time far away from my home in Connecticut. And get to Experience the European City life.

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET FROM THE PROJECT?

First of all I really need new models, because mine are getting old!! So I hope to convince my fellow co-worker, or member of the public to become my new models. They should of course, first agree to undress. I am also looking for artistic exchanges with the younger generation, because it will be my last project before retiring. It better be the last, but not the least.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LUXEMBOURG ART SCENE?

I am a great admirer of Robert Brandys' work! Beautiful use of colours and textures! Actually I don't know any other local artist.



*Untitled, 1998*  
© Neville Morgan



# LILA TOURNAY

\*Character from "Dexter" (2006)  
Season 2

## ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Sculptor, Mixed Media  
Theme of predilection: Cannibalism.  
She uses stolen items in her work. «I work with found Art»

## PERSONALITY TYPE:

Lila appears to be a fun-loving, compassionate person. However, as the season drags on, it is revealed that Lila is in fact a sociopath who frequents support groups in an attempt to feel emotions she is otherwise incapable of. Lila was a compulsive arsonist, and was responsible for at least four fires.

## BIOGRAPHY / EPISODE RECAPS:

Lila West, who goes by the pseudonym of Lila Tournay, is Dexter's former Narcotics Anonymous sponsor and the main antagonist in Season 2. She works as an artist, often using stolen items in her work. Dexter has an affair with her, leading to his breakup with Rita. She confesses to Dexter that she went sober after unintentionally killing her ex-boyfriend while intoxicated. This is later revealed to be a lie; she is in fact a sociopath who hangs out in support groups as an attempt to feel emotions she is otherwise incapable of. She immediately sees through Dexter's «mask» and becomes obsessed with him, believing him to be her soul mate.

S02E04: She welds metal and mannequins into sculptures, and takes Dexter out on a trip for «art supplies» (she steals different metal objects for her «found art»). She asks him why he «uses», and he says it's part of who he is. Lila asks him who he is and he can't really answer - so she decides that her mission will be to get him to discover himself, and says he will tell her his «deepest, darkest secrets».

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
*MAKING OF* PROJECT?

My pyromaniac and kleptomaniac tendencies, as well as my compulsive lying.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO  
GET FROM THE PROJECT?

«A support group with daily meeting, a place to share emotion and a medal after 90 days of sobriety.»

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT  
THE LUXEMBOURG ART  
SCENE?

«It's mainly cottage porn»

*Anthropophagy N°9*, 2006  
© Lila Tournay





# MAXEEN VANDERLEST

\*Character from "Weeds" (2005)  
S07E03 - S07E05

ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Mixed Media, Performance Artist

SPECIFICITIES:

Polygamy, Dying husband

RECENT EXHIBITIONS:

Performance at CAUDILLO - MORRIS ART GALLERY

BIOGRAPHY /  
EPISODE RECAPS:

Charles and Maxeen are in a 16-year long polyamorous marriage. He is a retired English professor suffering with terminal pancreatic cancer. She is an artist who hires Silas for an underwear-modeling gig. For a performance art piece, she slid a Popsicle up her vagina and posted video of the performance on the Internet. She builds Charles a special bedroom in an effort to fight his illness.

Andy meets Maxeen at Silas's performance art show. When Andy saves Silas from suffocation, Maxeen falls for him. «I want ... to probe your higher self.» Andy and Maxeen have a sexual fling.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
*MAKING OF PROJECT?*

I recently lost my husband to cancer. So I decided to help other cancer patient to feel better trough art making. I know it worked well with my Husband. I built *the Room of Danger*, for him and it really helped him for a while...

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO  
GET FROM THE PROJECT?

Therapeutic effects mostly. I hope that by helping other fighting cancer, I'll be able to cope with my own grief.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT  
THE LUXEMBOURG ART  
SCENE?

Not much at the moment. But ask me again in 3 month.



*The Room of Danger*, 2005  
© Maxeen Vanderlest

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