



My father was the first person to mention to me, several years ago, that some people in California were putting on an art show with pictures based on characters in my movies—and that it was going to be called Bad Dads.

He did not like the title at all. (He has always been more of a good dad, and it rubs him the wrong way when people confuse him with some of our fictional characters. He monitors with Google Alert.) He did, however, like the pictures. For me, it is extremely encouraging to know that

somebody-or-other somewhere is interested enough to make something-or-other new of their own inspired by something-or-other old of my own—that was in itself inspired by all sorts of other something-or-others somebody else invented before that. In fact, I have, on more than one occasion, turned to an artist represented/discovered in this series of exhibitions to make pictures for use in my own ongoing movies. (Rich Pellegrino, in particular, made a sort of a Schiele-esque watercolor for *The Grand Budapest Hotel* which is known as *Two Lesbians Masturbating*, and I think we can say he got that one just right.)

Jason Schwartzman and I paid a visit to the last Bad Dads show when it made its appearance in New York. By the time you get yourself out of the cutting room on a movie, you usually have a strong desire not to be exposed to the material ever again for the rest of your life. But, it turns out, after a decade or two, it can be a nice feeling to revisit the old characters. Jason and I moved from picture to picture with our hands in our pockets, nodding and murmuring. I guess we were kind of walking down memory lane. I cannot take credit for much of anything on these pages, and I do not even know if it is actually legal to publish this book? It probably violates if not my own personal copyrights then almost certainly those of a number of multinational entertainment conglomerates. But, for whatever it is worth, I approve, and I hope you will, too.

Wes Anderson  
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<https://www.cnn.com/style/article/wes-anderson-bad-dads-art/index.html>

It's not often that fan art finds its way into the white cube. But since 2010, San Francisco's Spoke Art gallery has achieved just that with "Bad Dads," a series of exhibitions of works inspired by the films of Wes Anderson, including "The Royal Tenenbaums," "Fantastic Mr. Fox," "Rushmore" and "The Grand Budapest Hotel."  
"His films seem to resonate well with creatives from all walks of life," says curator Ken Harman.

"From his set design to his costumes to his cinematography and his compositions, even up to his soundtracks -- and you know the great acting talents that he always has."

Harman started "Bad Dads" -- a reference to Wes Anderson's likeable but inadequate father figures -- in as a pop-up exhibition, calling it "something that I felt needed to exist." The show included 60 artists, including sculptors, painters and print-makers, with guests attending the Halloween costume party on opening night.

"Hundreds of people showed up and it wound up being incredibly successful, and we just brought it back year after year."

## High praise

Since then, the exhibition has expanded impressively, with their last show bringing together 80 artists. Harman and his collaborators have launched two permanent spaces in San Francisco (a third gallery opens in New York this fall), and staged similar exhibitions inspired by David Lynch, Martin Scorsese and the Coen Brothers -- alongside more traditional shows dedicated to various artists.

"Bad Dads" has also attracted considerable attention from Wes Anderson himself, who has supported and visited several of the exhibitions. (He got a private tour of 2015's exhibition in New York with actor Jason Schwartzman.)

Anderson also commissioned contributing artist Rich Pellegrino to create the Egon Schiele-inspired erotic painting featured in 2014's "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

## Wes Anderson on The Grand Budapest Hotel, Reimagined Nazis, and His Sock Drawer

Two paintings are key in the film — Boy With Apple, the painting Ralph Fiennes is supposed to inherit, and Two Lesbians Masturbating, which he puts on the wall in its place. You commissioned the latter **from Rich Pellegrino**, who actually had created fan art of your movies before?

Yeah, that's the one. He did this one that's more like a Schiele-type painting. We just wanted it to be funny. Do you know Schiele? The painter Egon Schiele. There's all variety of Schieles, but there are some very erotic ones. This is supposed to be like one of those, but we made our own version of it. We thought it would be funny if he took down the painting of Boy With Apple and looks for another painting, and this is what goes up. [Laughs.] We wanted a funny painting, used Schiele as the basis for it, and that's the gag.

