

Own This City

Kick My Heart's Ass: The Amazing Brett Loudermilk

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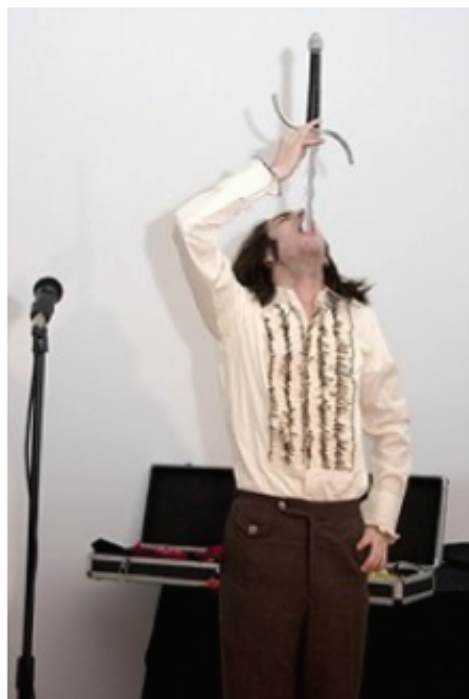


Photo by Caroline Voagen Nelson

Well, that's not something you see every day (at least not in polite company). I had just witnessed 20-year-old West Virginian Brett Loudermilk ingest at least four feet of inflated balloon. And, apparently, that green tube wouldn't be seen again until it passed through his digestive system some time later, away from the audience's prying, vaguely horrified eyes. That wasn't the only thing this long-haired young dandy in the ruffled shirt stuck down his gullet. He also ingested swords of various lengths and shapes, blithely hammered a nail into his nostril and regaled us with tales about his California museum dedicated mostly to dual-headed quadrupeds. See Loudermilk's video of sword-swallower romance and other odes to that most soul-rending emotion at an ongoing exhibit called [Kick My Heart's Ass](#) at apexart —curated by [Found](#) magazine's Davy Rothbart. After all, nothing says "I love you" like a lacerated esophagus. Check out a couple more photos and a video after the break.

