

## The Museum of Crime and the Museum of God

Organized by Luc Sante

May 16 - June 23, 2007

Opening reception:

Wednesday, May 16, 6-8 pm



*The Museum of Crime and the Museum of God* is at once an illustrated essay—employing the walls of the gallery as its page—and a lurid, seedy, extremely suspect carnival attraction, as attractive as it is repellent.

Born and raised into a belief system—European peasant Catholicism—that routinely employed sensational and threatening images to manipulate the emotions of its practitioners, Luc Sante entered adulthood an ocean away, in a sensational and threatening metropolis. He found himself drawn to the imagery of crime, both the laconic factuality of evidence and the highly colored and erotically charged packaging of fiction. Eventually he realized how much this attraction owed to the conditions of his upbringing—and the many ways in which religion and crime are fatally linked together, accomplices that pretend to be polar opposites.

The show is comprised of nearly one hundred artifacts from Sante's own collection—holy pictures, photographs, death letters, leaflets, posters, dime novels, relics, banners, and ephemera. These objects will be connected by a text running along the walls of the gallery. The visitor can choose to engage with the exhibition either superficially or in depth. Either tactic is guaranteed to leave a subconscious residue of ambiguity and doubt.

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