

Playboy On The Scene

WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHERE IT'S HAPPENING AND WHO'S MAKING IT HAPPEN



Gonzo but Not Forgotten

A fascinating new book opens a window into the life of Hunter S. Thompson

As things stand now," a 21-year-old Hunter S. Thompson wrote in June 1959, "I am going to be a writer. I'm not sure that I'm going to be a good one or even a self-supporting one, but until the dark thumb of fate presses me to the dust and says, 'You are nothing,' I will be a writer." Of course, you know how the rest of this story goes. What you may not know: This month Ammo Books is releasing *Gonzo* by Thompson, a scrapbook of photos and documents that piece together a captivating portrait of a man who spent a lifetime chasing his muse beyond the barriers of conventional

wisdom and political correctness. A visual biography of sorts, the book includes Thompson's press card for *The Jersey Shore Herald*, where he got his first writing job after leaving the military; notebook scribbles that later turned into *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*; endless photos of and by the master; plus various and sundry bits of Thompson lore. The only thing missing from this celebration of the man is the good doctor himself. (Following his suicide in 2005, his ashes were fired from a cannon on his property in Woody Creek, Colorado.) The book is available at ammobooks.com for \$300.



Signs of the Times

With his new exhibit, Julian Opie is the unapologetic pop art avatar of the digital revolution

I am a bit bored of interviews," British artist Julian Opie explains. "I communicate better through pictures." Given his accessible style, we're inclined to agree. Seldom is an artist's work so communicative to both art cognoscenti and ordinary people in every part of the world. Many of Opie's pieces, developed using computers, are bold pictographic icons that pull from and play on information-age logos and international signage that have become elements of everyday life. Having had recent shows in the global capitals of New York, London, Shanghai and Tokyo, he stretches to the Midwest with an extensive public exhibit in Indianapolis called *Signs*, comprising 11 pieces dropped on street corners and into green spaces throughout the city. On display until September 2007, it includes the work shown here, *Bryan Plays Guitar*, standing more than 16 feet tall, in White River State Park. Who knew the Instant Messenger icon rocked so hard? Check indyarts.org for more info.