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■ **CREATIVITY:** Two artists find collaboration results in new inspiration

## Dusty Peas dust off riot of colour

**JAMES REANEY**

The London Free Press

A colourful crop of Dusty Peas is being harvested in downtown London tomorrow night.

Dusty Peas is the playful name for a duo who dub themselves "a collaborative art team."

The Peas are Jamie Q, a UWO master's student in visual arts, and London hip-hopper and artist James Kirkpatrick.

Tomorrow, at the Forest City Gallery, the duo brings its bright, beautiful book, *A Journey Through Time & Shapes* with Dusty Peas, home to London.

The book with the light blue spaceship on the cover and the hottest, coolest pinks in a 13-colour array, has already been celebrated in such places as Halifax, Sackville, Montreal and Toronto.

"We're drawing, we're painting, we're doing silk-screens, sculptures, animations, all kinds of stuff," says Jamie Q — the "Q" is for Quail — of the Dusty Peas.

"I've been really conscientious about the colour choices . . . You need to push people, go crazy with colour, not be afraid of colour."

The Journey experience takes

in a 13-colour, silk-screened book and a four-colour, assemble-it-yourself paper sculpture. Both are available in a limited edition of 100 copies.

"With some scissors and glue, you can build your own spacecraft," the duo says of the sculpture, a companion piece to the book.

BealArt grad Kirkpatrick, known in London hip-hop circles as Thesis Sahib, says his use of colour has exploded in the spontaneous, intuitive Dusty Peas partnership.

Quail, 28, worked at the Montreal powerhouse Drawn & Quarterly, one of the most influential art and literary comics publishers in the world. Londoner Peter Thompson, a friend of Kirkpatrick's, was published by D&Q. That helped make the Q-Thesis connection when she came to UWO.

Quail and Kirkpatrick met at a hip-hop show last August at the old Embassy where Kirkpatrick/Thesis was performing

on his 31st birthday. They quickly became friends.

By November, the duo was up and creating. "It was drawings with markers . . . I just sat at one side of the table, Jamie sat at the other and we just passed them back and forth," Kirkpatrick says of DP's beginnings.

Zines, animated works, laptop sounds and a band in the making called noisebleed are among the team's creations.

The Dusty Peas name came from funny ways they would send e-mails to each other.

Their big hit so far, *A Journey Through Time & Shapes*, was completed during a gruelling silk-screening process as part of the duo's residency at the Roberts Street Social Centre/ Ink Storm Screenprinting Collective/Anchor Archive Zine Library in Halifax this summer.

Kirkpatrick and Quail continue to work as solo artists. He's represented in the travelling group exhibition *Pulp Fiction*, at Toronto's Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art this summer.

What they do together is entirely different than their solo work, says Kirkpatrick.

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James Kirkpatrick, left, and Jamie Quail, a collaborative art team called Dusty Peas, have created a book called *Journey Through Time & Shapes* and a four-colour, assemble-it-yourself paper sculpture shown here. The London launch will take place at the Forest City Gallery tomorrow.



Meet the artists at  
[lfp.com/videos](http://lfp.com/videos)