

Dan Perjovschi: a Romanian's postcards from the edge

"Postcards from America", a series of ink and pencil drawings mounted on 500 pieces of cardboard (Lombard-Freid Projects, 349), is Romanian artist Dan Perjovschi's irreverent take on the American way of life. "The series consists of 500 stories based on my first encounter with the continent-country we Romanians rated as the absolute in freedom," says the artist.

Drawing allows Perjovschi, who trained as a painter at the Romanian School of Art in Bucharest in the early 1980s, to "condense a complex issue into a few lines", he says. His spidery doodles address the post-communist hang-ups of his fellow Romanians experienced after the fall of the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu in 1989.

"I must be clever, good, strong, tough, interesting, Romanian, nice," is scrawled across one of the postcards in the Armory installation, which shows the artist leaning on a skyscraper. Other events outlined in this visual road trip across the US, funded by a fellowship from the United States Information Agency (USIA), include Perjovschi's first taste of fast food, watching "NYPD Blue" on TV and



other daily rituals.

"After the USIA tour, I did a one-month residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna, Florida. Imagine an ex-communist biking around Florida with his own bungalow," he says.

And how does the artist feel about being embraced by the US art world, with works in the collection of MoMA and his American odyssey on show at the Armory

Show? "I am here and I intend to stay," he says defiantly. G.H.

Above: *Postcards from America* (500) (1994)
 Gallery Lombard-Freid Projects (349)
 Size: 3.5in x 5.25in each
 Price: €125,000 (\$195,000), set of 50
 Auction record: *Flipside*, New York, set of 30 (2004), 11.0in x 8.0in, Lampertz, Vienna, 29 November 2007, sold for \$17,541