

Outsider Art Madness and Art

Patrick Allegaert, Editor

- Art-historical reference work on Outsider Art
- Works from the combined collection of the renowned De Stadhof & the Dr Guislain Museum
- Illustrated by works of art of a wide selection of international names



Content

'True art is never found in the place one expects: it is found where no one takes notice or no one bothers to name it,' writes the artist Jean Dubuffet in 1949. The authors of this book are, just as Dubuffet, looking for a different expression of art: 'art brut', 'raw art' or 'outsider art'. Art created outside the established order of art. The work of artists who in their own way focus on a 'different' artistic approach. Exceptional is that they are outsiders. Some of them are mentally handicapped, others mentally disturbed. As outsider art is not an artistic trend, it is not bound by any artistic rules. The artists themselves are no professionals and have therefore had no schooling. Their art is characterised by spontaneity, authenticity and idiosyncrasy. Outsider art is created on the fringes of the artistic establishment and refers through its directness to men's creative powers.

The works of art in this book belong to the Dr. Guislain Museum collection and the collection De Stadhof in the Netherlands. From November 2005 onwards both collections are to be permanently displayed in a new wing at the Dr. Guislain Museum. This new presentation of 'Outsiders and Art' will enable visitors to admire quality works of art on 'madness and art' past and present on a permanent basis.

The book is not a catalogue but an in-depth art-historical reference work presenting and commenting on the very best and most striking works from these two internationally unique art collections. The collection from the Dr. Guislain Museum is set up around 'madness and art'. The works from the internationally highly rated De Stadhof Foundation belong to one of the world's most renowned collections of outsider art (the collection houses more than 5,000 pieces). Both collections form the basis for the selection of the illustrations and artists in this publication.

This book tries to broaden the interest for this exceptional artistic form created by 'outsiders'. Its point of departure is crucial. 'What is normal and what is abnormal? How has society dealt with these questions throughout history?' Outsider Art endeavours to comment on and illustrate thoroughly the oeuvre of numerous wonderful artists.

Structure of the Book

Four short illustrated introductory essays (40 pages)

A portrait of twenty outsider artists (80 pages)

A concise essay presents each artist, combining biographical data with a certain 'problem'.

The following outsider artists are, as it were, the founding fathers and mothers of art brut. They therefore belong to the international art brut artistic canon: Adolf Wolfli, Madge Gill, Carlo Zinelli, August Wala, Oscar Tschirtner, Micehl Nedjar, Willem van Genk, Gerard van Lankveld, Nek Chand, Bertus Jonkers and Luiz Figuerido. The book includes as well a large number of quality ensemble works by the top artist Figuerido.

A thematic approach of outsider art (48 pages)

From a diagnostic point of view (Kardol, Plokker collection)

Individual mythologies (Theo)

Socio-political commitments (Koczy)

Sexuality (Dingemans, Kauser)

Paranoia and megalomania (Carlo)

Religious faith (Glastra)

Visionaries (Junker)

A fusion of word and image

Index, colophon.

English synopsis

French synopsis

Concise Biography of the Authors

Patrick Allegaert, Editor

Annemie Cailliau and Frederik de Preester (Director of the Guislain Museum)

Jos ten Berge (Art Historian, VU Amsterdam, Chairman of the Stadshof Foundation)

Thomas Röske (President of the Prinzhorn Collection, Heidelberg, Germany)

David Mc Lagan (Author and art therapist, Great-Britain)

259 x 208 mm | 176 pages

ca 115 colour illustrations | 180.000 characteres

hardcover

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