

ADOLF WÖFLI

Born 1864, Bowil, Switzerland
Died 1930

Adolf Wölfli is one of the major figures of Art Brut. He was born to an extremely poor family in Bowil, Switzerland, before moving to Bern that same year. He was raised solely, by his mother, after his alcoholic father left them. Wölfli attended school sporadically until the age of nine when he began to work as a goatherd. When his mother died, his custody was passed between a variety of families. He earned his living as a woodcutter, farmhand and laborer.

In 1889 he was arrested for assault and spent two years in prison. Upon his release, Wölfli committed another offense and was interned, at the age of thirty-one, in Waldau hospital, near Bern, Germany, where he remained until his death in 1930. At Waldau, Wölfli took up drawing, writing and composing, working from morning to night for the next thirty years. His work attracted the interest of Dr. Walter Morgenthaler, who wrote a monograph about him. Wölfli's oeuvre is vast consisting of twenty-five thousand pages of graphic compositions, musical scores and literary works.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Art, Madness – Chocolate. Adolf Wölfli*, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, Switzerland
- 2012 *Adolf Wölfli: Creator of the Universe*, City Gallery Prague –House at the Stone Bell, Prague, The Czech Republic
- 2011 *All Things Round: Galaxies, Eyeballs & Karma*, American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
Adolf Wölfli: Alibi und der Kontinent Südmeridian, Kunstmuseum Bern, Berne, Germany
Adolf Wölfli Univers - LaM - Lille Métropole musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Villeneuve d'Ascq, France
- 2006 *Inner Worlds Outside* [traveling exhibition], Sala de Exposiciones de la Fundación "La Caixa," Madrid; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
- 2003 *The Art of Adolf Wölfli: St. Adolf-Giant-Creation*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
- 1998 *The World of Adolf Wölfli*, Goldie Paley Gallery, Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Adolf Wölfli, Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 1992 *Parallel Visions: Modern Artists and Outsider Art*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1980 *Adolf Wölfli*, Centre Pompidou –Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Purple States*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
On the Border, Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau, Switzerland
Recent Acquisitions (And Some Thoughts on the Current Market), Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY
Art Brut Masterpieces and Discoveries, Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
The Wall, La Collection Antoine de Galbert, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
- 2013 *From Radiance and Dissolution*, Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin, Germany
Outsiders, Naïve and Autodidacts, Haifa Museum of Art, Haifa, Israel
Now Here is also Nowhere: Part II, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA
Story Lines, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY
- 2012 *Accidental Genius: Art from the Anthony Petullo Collection*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
- 2011 *All Folked Up!* Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
Night Scented Stock, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY
Sous le vent de l'Art Brut, Collection Charlotte Zander, Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France
- 2010 *Intuition*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, England
The World Inside Out: Art Brut from the ABCD Collection in Paris, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, Belgium
- 2009 *In Through the Out Door*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
Approaching Abstraction, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
Messiahs, MODEM Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen, Hungary
Deux Pièces, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2005 *Dubuffet & Art Brut* [traveling exhibition], Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf; Collection de l'Art, Brut, Lausanne; Museum of Modern Art Lille Metropole, Villeneuve-D'ascq, France

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 Stone, Lisa. *Accidental Genius: Art from the Anthony Petullo Collection*. New York: Prestel Publishing.
- 2006 *Inner Worlds Outside*. Exhibition catalogue. Fundación "La Caixa"/Whitechapel Gallery. Madrid: Irish Museum of Modern Art & Ediciones El Viso.
- 2005 *Dubuffet & Art Brut*. Exhibition catalogue. Düsseldorf: 5 Continents Editions & Museum Kunst Palast.

Andrew Edlin GALLERY

- 2003 Spoerri, Elka, Adolf Wölfli, Daniel Baumann, and Edward M. Gomez. *The Art of Adolf Wölfli: St. Adolf-Giant-Creation*. New York: American Folk Art Museum.
- 1997 Spoerri, Elka. *Adolf Wölfli: Draftsman, Writer, Poet, Composer*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- 1992 Morgenthaler, Walter, and Aaron H. Esman. *Madness [and] Art: The Life and Works of Adolf Wölfli*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Tuchman, Maurice and Carol S. Eiel, eds. *Parallel Visions: Modern Artists and Outsider Art*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
Museum of Fine Arts, Bern, Switzerland