

## **HENRY DARGER** (1892-1973)

Henry Darger was born in Chicago in 1892. After his mother's death, he was first placed in a Catholic home for boys, then into the Lincoln Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children in rural Illinois. He ran away from the asylum at age seventeen.

Darger lived a solitary life. He worked as a janitor in a Chicago hospital from around 1922 until his retirement in 1963. A devout Catholic, Darger went to mass every day. During this time, Darger created the work for which he is now known. Alone in his room, unknown to those around him, he gave tangible, visible form to an epic story of legions of pre-pubescent girls—with paper-doll faces and unexpected male organs—who battle for their lives against monstrous foes who seek to torture, kill, or exploit them. This, his magnum opus, is commonly referred to as *In the Realms of the Unreal*. Darger's actual title is: *The Story of the Vivian Girls, in what is known as the Realms of the Unreal, of the Glandeco-Angelinian War Storm, Caused by the Child Slave Rebellion*. The work spans over 15,000 single-spaced typewritten pages. This expansive and complex narrative, together with over 300 imaginatively constructed fantasy drawings, are regarded as one of the 20th century's most original and unusual literary works.

The full scope of Darger's artistic production only became known posthumously. His landlord, Nathan Lerner, himself an artist and inventor, discovered Darger's work when the artist moved into a nursing home. After Darger's death, Lerner devoted much of his time and attention to the gathering and dissemination of Darger's art and related, archival materials. Nathan Lerner died in 1997 and his wife Kiyoko Lerner took over managing the artist's estate.

Darger's oeuvre is now internationally recognized by outsider and contemporary art audiences, and has won wide acclaim from critics, artists, art historians, curators and collectors who see the withdrawn art maker and storyteller as one of the most original talents—a true visionary—of his time.

Darger's work has been the subject numerous monographs and solo exhibitions and is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the American Folk Art Museum in New York, the Collection de l'Art Brut (Lausanne), the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), and the Milwaukee Art Museum. Darger's life and work were also the focus of a meditative documentary by the Academy Award-winning filmmaker, Jessica Yu (*In the Realms of the Unreal*, 2004). Other movies about Darger may be forthcoming; the California-based production company Bedford Falls, has purchased the rights to develop a feature film based on the artist's life.

**HENRY DARGER**

b. 1892 Chicago, IL; d. 1973, Chicago, IL

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2015 *Henry Darger: 1892-1973*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France
- 2013 *Henry Darger: Landscapes*. Ricco/Maresca Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *Henry Darger, American Innocence, Welcome to the Realms of the Unreal*, Laforet Museum Harajuku, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 *Henry Darger*. Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Henry Darger: The Certainties of War*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
*The Private Collection of Henry Darger*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
*Up Close: Henry Darger and the Coloring Book*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
- 2008 *Darger Discoveries*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Drawn from the Home of Henry Darger*, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Henry Darger, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art*, Chicago, IL  
*Henry Darger Room Collection* (permanent installation), Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
*Up Close: Henry Darger*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
- 2007 *Henry Darger: The Vivian Girls Emerge*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Henry Darger: A Story of Girls at War -of Paradises Dreamed*, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 *Bruit et Fureur, L'oeuvre d' Henry Darger (Sound and Fury, The Art of Henry Darger)*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France  
*Henry Darger: The Vivian Girls Emerge*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Henry Darger: Highlights from the American Folk Art Museum*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA; The Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2004 *Andererseits: Die Phantastik*. Landesgalerie am Oberösterreichischen Landesmuseum, Linz, Austria  
*Henry Darger: Art and Myth*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY
- 2003 *Henry Darger: In the Realms of the Unreal*, The Watari-Um Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
*Henry Darger*, Magasin III Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden  
*Visions Realized: The Paintings and Process of Henry Darger*, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *Darger: The Henry Darger Collection*, The American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
*Studies and Sketches: Henry Darger*, Eva and Morris Feld Gallery, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
- 2001 *Henry Darger*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2000 *Henry Darger: Realms of the Unreal*, Carl Hammer Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*New Works by Henry Darger*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY

# Andrew Edlin GALLERY

- 1999 *Henry Darger and His Realms*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY
- 1997 *Henry Darger. Les aventures des Vivian Girls*, Collection de l'art brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1996 *Art in Chicago 1945-1995*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Henry Darger: The Unreality of Being*, The University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA; Museum of American Folk Art, New York, NY; The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
*Henry J. Darger. Dans les Royaumes del'Irréel*, Galleria Gottardo, Lugano, Switzerland; Collection de l'art brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1987 *Henry Darger*, Rosa Esman Gallery, New York, NY  
*Henry Darger*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, NY
- 1982 *Henry Darger: Realms of the Unreal*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, NY
- 1980 *The Drawings of Henry Darger*, Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, NY
- 1977 *The Realms of the Unreal*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *World Made By Hand*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 Art Basel Miami Beach, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *Collection abcd/Bruno Decharme*, La maison rouge, Paris, France  
*Disturbing Innocence*, [curated by Eric Fischl], The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY  
*Faces and Figures in Self-Taught Art*, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY  
*Le Mur*, La maison rouge, Paris, France  
*Social Geographies: Interpreting Space and Place*, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC
- 2013 *Outsiders, Naïve and Autodidacts*, Haifa Museum, Haifa, Israel  
*Raw Vision: 25 ans d'Art Brut*, Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France  
*The Red Queen*, Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia  
*Story Lines: Tracing the Narrative of Outsider Art*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY
- 2012 *Accidental Genius: Art from the Anthony Petullo Collection*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI  
*Arte Bruta. Terra Incognita*, Fundação Arpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva, Lisbon, Spain  
*Collector of Skies*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Exhibition #1.1*, Museum of Everything, Chalet Society, Paris, France  
*Jubilation/Rumination: Life, Real and Imagined*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
*Reflections on a Shifting Field*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY  
*The Ins and Outs of Self-Taught: Reflections on a Shifting Field*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY
- 2011 *A Life in Art: Monika Kinley*, Plymouth Arts Centre, Plymouth, England  
*All Folked Up!*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Compass – Drawings from the Museum of Modern Art*, New York, Martin Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany  
*Edmond Engel, Henry Darger and Gerard Cambon*, Judy A Saslow Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Heaven + Hell*, Intuit – The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
*Hey! Modern Art and Pop Culture*, Halle Saint-Pierre, Paris, France  
*Private Worlds*, Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis, MN  
*Re: Chicago*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL  
*Weltenwandler: die Kunst der Outsider*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Francfort-sur-le-Main, Germany

# Andrew Edlin GALLERY

- When the Fairytale Never Ends*, fordPROJECT, New York, NY
- 2010 *L'Écart absolu*, Charles Fourier, Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'archéologie, Besançon, France  
*World Transformers*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Francfort-sur-le-Main, Germany  
*Intuition*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, England  
*The World Inside Out*, *Art Brut from the abcd collection in Paris*, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, Belgium  
*The Museum of Everything*, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy
- 2009 *Compass In Hand: Selections from the Judith Rothschild Foundation Contemporary Drawings Collection*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
*In Through the Out Door*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Les Chemins de l'art brut. L'Aracine et l'art brut*, Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris, France; Université Charles-de-Gaulle -Lille 3, Villeneuve-d'Ascq, France  
*Wonderland Through the Looking Glass*, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
- 2008 *DARGERism: Contemporary Artists and Henry Darger*, American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
*Glossolalia: Languages of Drawing*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
*Het Spel van de Waazin*, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, Belgium  
*In the Land of Retinal Delights: The Juxtapoz Factor*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA  
*Messages & Magic: 100 Years of Collage and Assemblage in American Art*, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI  
*Lots of Things Like This*, Apex Art, New York, NY  
*Vocabularies of Metaphor: More Stories*, Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*The World Needs A Narrative*, Kevin Kavanagh, Dublin, Ireland
- 2007 *A Secret Service: Art Compulsion and Concealment*, (Hayward Gallery Touring Project), Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, England  
*Beautés Insensées*, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Monaco  
*Collage*, Russell Bowman Art Advisory, Chicago, IL  
*Effigies*, Stuart Shave Modern Art, London, England  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
*Into Me/ Out of Me*, MoMA P.S.1, [Itinerary KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin; Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome][catalogue]  
MACRO Testaccio (MACRO FUTURE), Rome, Italy  
*Mixed Signals*, Ronald Feldman Fine Arts Inc., New York, NY  
*Recent Acquisitions*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY  
*The Writer's Brush*, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 *Body Politics: Figurative Prints and Drawings from Schiele to De Kooning*, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN  
*Fairy Tale, Myth and Fantasy: Approaches to Spirituality in Art*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY  
*Inner Worlds Outside*, Fundacion La Caixa, Madrid [itinerary: Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland  
*Keeping Secrets*, Hayward Gallery Touring Project, London [itinerary: Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK]  
*Musgrave Kinley Outsider Collection*, Tate Britain, London, UK  
*Parallel Visions II*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY  
*Inner Worlds Outside*, Fundación La Caixa, Madrid, Spain; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland  
*Keeping Secrets*, Hayward Gallery Touring, London, UK; Hatton Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK  
*Bang! Bang! : guns, gangs, games et œuvres d'armes*, musée d'Art et d'Industrie, Saint-Étienne, France; musée des Art modestes, Sète, France  
*Undercurrent 06*, Göteborgs Konstmuseum, Göteborg, Sweden  
*More Than Coffee Was Served*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY  
*Drawn Into the World*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

# Andrew Edlin GALLERY

- 5 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Realms of Creation: Wölfli & Darger, Side by Side*. Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Mixed-Up Childhood*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Musgrave Kinley Outsider Collection*, Tate Britain, London, UK
- 2003 *Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art*, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA  
*Art Brut, Neuve Invention and Outsider Art*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, Miami Beach, FL
- 2002 *Cathy Wilkes - Henry J. Darger*. Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland  
Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- 2001 *The First 10 Years: Selected Works from the Collection*, The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin,
- ~~2000~~ *Disasters of War*, P.S.1, New York, New York, NY
- 1999 *The Modern Child*, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY  
*Obsession*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
- 1998 *Self-Taught Artists of the 20th Century: An American Anthology*, [itinerary: Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX; Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX; Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY; Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH]
- 1996 *Dans les Royaumes de l'Irréel*, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland  
*Art in Chicago 1945-1995*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
- 1995 *A World of Their Own, Twentieth Century American Folk Art*, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
- 1992 *Parallel Visions*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA [itinerary: Museo Nacional Reina Sofía, Madrid; Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland; Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo]
- 1981 *Transmitters: The Isolate Artist in America*, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- ~~1979~~ *Disasters of War*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, IL  
*Outsiders*, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

## BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

- 2015 Choghakate Kazarian ed., *Henry Darger: 1892-1973*, Exhibition Catalogue, May 29-October 11, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.
- 2015, 2013 Elledge, Jim. *Henry Darger, Throwaway Boy: The Tragic Life of an Outsider Artist*. New York: Overlook Press.
- 2009 Biesenbach, Klaus. *Henry Darger*. New York: Prestel.
- 2007 Koide, Yukiko and Tsuzuki, Kyoichi. *Henry Darger's Room: 851 Webster*, Tokyo: Imperial Press.
- 2006 *Bruit et fureur: l'œuvre de Henry Darger/Sound and Fury: The Art of Henry Darger*, essay by Edward Gómez, New York: Edlin Gallery, 2006, 2008, 2009.
- Madrid
- 2002 MacGregor, John M. *Henry Darger: In the Realms of the Unreal*, New York: Delano Greenridge Editions.

- 2001 Biesenbach, Klaus and Kiyoko Lerner, *Henry Darger: Disasters of War*, Berlin: KW Institute for Contemporary Art.  
Anderson, Brooke Davis. *Darger, The Henry Darger Collection at the American Folk Art Museum*. essay by Michel Thevoz, New York: Harry N. Abrams/American Folk Art Museum.
- 2000 Bonesteel, Michael. *Henry Darger: Selected Art and Writings*. New York: Rizzoli.
- 1996 MacGregor, John. *Henry J. Darger: Nei Regni Dell' irreale*. Fondazione Galleria Gottardo/Collection de l'Art Brut, Capelli.  
Lerner, Nathan and Stephen Prokopoff. *Henry Darger: The Unreality of Being*. University of Iowa Museum of Art.

**ARTICLES**

- 2015 Etienne Sallon "The Universe of Henry Darger, The fantastic, literary and graphic artwork of the master of Art Brut", Christie's Post-War & Contemporary, Art News & Review, September 17.  
Valerie Dupontchelle, "Henry Darger, Jeux d'enfants," *Le Figaro*, June 6.  
Forrest, Nicholas, "Henry Darger's Epic 60-year Secret Art Project at MAM Paris," *Blouin Art Info*, Web, May 27.  
Priscilla Frank, "Inside The Dark And Twisted Alternate Universe Of Outsider Artist Henry Darger," *Huffington Post Arts & Culture*, January 29.
- 2013 Steinhauer, Jillian. "On Henry Darger's 15,000-Page Novel." *Hyperallergic*, February 18.  
Martinez, Alanna. "Shows That Matter: Exploring Henry Darger's Mysterious Universe at Ricco/Maresca." *ArtInfo*, January 7.
- 2011 Piglia-Veronese, Paolo. *Upward Crashes, Fracture's Topoi: Musil, Kiefer, Darger*. Atropos Press.
- 2010 Johnson, Ken. "Where Beauty Collides With Creepy." *New York Times*, May 13.
- 2009 Harris, Bryony. "Into the Realms of the Unreal." *Under the Influence*, Spring.  
Smith, Roberta. "Where Outsiders Come in From the Cold." *New York Times*, January 8.
- 2008 *Monopol*, September.  
D'Alessio, F.N. "Posthumous fame grows for artist Henry Darger." *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 29. Johnson, Ken. "An Insider Perspective on an Outsider Artist." *New York Times*, April 18. Johnson, Ken. "Visionaries in a Bubble, Safe from Convention." *New York Times*, January 25.
- 2007 Liddell, C.B. "Naïve or normal? Take a peek inside Henry Darger's mind." *Japan Times*, April 26.  
Breidenbach, Tom. "Henry Darger/Andrew Edlin Gallery." *Art Forum*, March.  
Smith, Roberta. "Henry Darger: The Vivian Girls Emerge." *New York Times*, January 5.
- 2006 Baker, R.C. "Henry Darger: The Vivian Girls Emerge." *Village Voice*, November 21.  
"Tilly + the Wall on Henry Darger." *Modern Painters*, July-August.  
Vernay, Éric. "Henry Darger, entre innocence et cruauté." *l'Humanité*, August 8. Dagen, Philippe. "Darger et ses petites filles en guerre." *Le Monde*, June 8.
- 2005 Perry, Grayson. "Who do you think you are calling an Outsider?" *Evening Standard*, August 16.  
O'Hagan, Sean. "Inside the Mind of an Outsider." *The Observer*, June 24. Jones, Finn-Olaf. "Landlord's Fantasy." *Forbes*, April 25.
- 2004 Kehr, Dave. "The Fantasy World of a Mysterious Artist." *New York Times*, December 22.

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- 2002 Smith, Roberta. "Hailing a Past and Future." *New York Times*, December 14.  
Cotter, Holland. "Visions of Childhood, Showing Purity and Evil." *New York Times*, April 19.
- 2001 Glueck, Grace. "The Horror: Apocalypses of Battles Past (and Maybe Future)." *New York Times*, January 12.
- 2000 Boxer, Sarah. "He Was Crazy Like a...Genius?" *New York Times*, September 16.

## FILMOGRAPHY

- 2011 Stokes, Mark. *Revolutions of the Night: The Enigma of Henry Darger*. U.S.:  
Quale Films. 2004 Yu, Jessica. *In the Realms of the Unreal*. U.S.: Cherry Sky Films.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Collection abcd, Paris, France  
Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland  
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI  
Musée d'art moderne Lille Métropole, Villeneuve d'Ascq,  
France  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian, Washington  
D.C.  
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY