

**JOHN BYAM**

Born 1929, Oneonta, New York; died 2013

Using combinations of wood, sawdust, glue, paint and ink, Byam has produced three-dimensional objects that while recognizable, remain equivocal. Byam's sculptural work follows in a long tradition of woodcarving in rural America, however, his use of sawdust mixed with a glue binder lends many of the objects a soft focus, giving them the appearance of emerging or slipping from view. This is also reflected in the artist's choice of imagery that at times indicates a personal longing for travel and exploration beyond his daily life. Conversely, Byam's works on paper, utilizing a variety of materials including pencil, crayon, and marker, often include portraits and written commentary, and speak clearly and directly about contemporary culture and its fascination with media and celebrity.

Born in Oneonta, New York in 1929, Byam spent a large part of his life assisting his parents in the daily operations of the family-owned trailer court. In the late 1940s Byam went to work for the Delaware and Hudson Railway, then served two years with the U.S. military stationed in Japan during the Korean War. In 1952 he returned home to his parents and took several jobs, including one as a part-time gravedigger for a local cemetery.

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2015 *John Byam: Sculptures and Drawings*, The Good Luck Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 *John Byam*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2012 *The Artwork of John Byam: As Near As Can Be*, Project Space Gallery, SUNY Oneonta, New York, NY

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2016 *World Made By Hand*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 The Outsider Art Fair Paris, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*I Taught Myself*, Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, WA  
The Outsider Art Fair, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 The Armory Show, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
Collection abcd/ Bruno Decharme, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
- 2013 *Véhicules*, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland  
  
NADA Art Fair, Andrew Edlin Gallery, Miami, FL  
  
The Outsider Art Fair, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
  
Dallas Art Fair, Andrew Edlin Gallery, Dallas, TX

2012 *John Byam & Matt Blackwell*, Parker's Box Gallery, Brooklyn, New York, NY

## **ARTICLES**

2015 "John Byam" *Outsider Art Now*, February 21.

2013 Molarsky, Mona. "Review: John Byam." ARTnews, April.

"Critic's Pick: John Byam." *New York Magazine*, February 25.

Cohen, David. "In From the Cold: The Outsider Art Fair." *ArtCritical*, February 2.

Corbett, Rachel. "One of My Artists Is a Witch: New Outsider Art Fair Offers an Enchanting Mix." *ArtInfo*, February 1.

Smith, Roberta. "Feeling Right at Home on the Fringe." *New York Times*, January 31.

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Collection ABCD, Paris, France

Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland

Museum of Everything, London, England