

out  
sider fair  
art  
*Super-Rough*

Guest Curator: Takashi Murakami  
150 Wooster Street, New York  
June 9-27, 2021



Kazumi Kamae, *Masato and I visit the ISE Grand Shrine*, 2021,  
fired clay, 12 x 11 x 7.5 inches. Courtesy of Yukiko Koide Presents, Tokyo.

The Outsider Art Fair is excited to present *Super-Rough*, a large-scale group exhibition of close to two hundred sculptural works by approximately 60 self-taught, visionary and vernacular folk artists from around the world. Overseen by Takashi Murakami, in collaboration with several dozen Outsider Art Fair dealers and gallerists, the show will take place in a raw, expansive ground floor space in SoHo, New York City.

*Super-Rough*, a word play on *Superflat*—Murakami's highly influential term for a new genre of Japanese Pop Art that emerged at the turn of the millennium, proposes the private and idiosyncratic universe of Outsider Art as an alternative to the ongoing spectacle of contemporary art and popular culture. Also referencing Outsider Art's DIY dimensionality and handmade aesthetic, *Super-Rough* offers a diametrical departure from the slick seductive surfaces of a shiny consumer consciousness. At the same time it reflects Murakami's understanding that in visual culture there is equivalence to all manners of art, a super-flattening of prior hierarchical distinctions between fine art and popular or vernacular arts, between what is professional and

# outsider fair art

institutionally ratified and what is self-taught. On the compositional and textural implications of an adjective like “rough” Murakami cites the calligraphic Zen paintings of temple monks and Buddhist sculpture, in which studied refinement gradually drifts towards a rougher abstraction, and how in each there is a forceful connection between refinement and roughness. He also sees a connection between religious art and the spiritual strain in Outsider Art, explaining that “Outsider Artists don’t think about unnecessary things, they focus in on that state.”



1.) Monica Valentine, *Untitled*, 2021. Mixed media, 12.5x12.5x2.5 in. Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland, California. 2.) John Byam (1929-2013), *Untitled*, n.d., Wood, glue and sawdust, 5.2 x 4 x 3.6 in. Courtesy of Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York. 3.) Nek Chand, (1924-2015), *Untitled*, n.d. Metal, cement, ceramic, 28 ½ x 12 ½ x 9 in. The Gallery of Everything, London.

Certain tendencies emerge out of the imaginative unpredictability of these tactile inventions, where assemblage reveals its true cumulative glory—be it a refuse-laden metal bus by the late Dutch master Willem Van Genk (1927-2005), the bead and sequin-encrusted foam works by Monica Valentine; Lonnie Holley’s re-imagined and transformed talismans made from found objects and imbued with profoundly metaphorical meaning; Gaston Chassaic’s (1910-1964) fanciful collage figures; Bessie Harvey’s (1929-1994) deeply religious animations of the wood she foraged; or the architecturally woven miniature thrones that Eugene Von Bruenchenhein (1910-1983) fabricated from bleached chicken and turkey bones. By presenting together these and other esteemed self-taught makers of sculpture—William Edmondson, James Castle, Judith Scott—with a legion of works by anonymous and scarcely known artists, *Super-Rough* becomes a voyage of discovery more than just a map of the familiar.

Murakami is one of a number of contemporary artists who have supported Outsider Art in recent years (e.g. David Byrne, Maurizio Cattelan, KAWS). He has collected significant works by artists like Henry Darger, but he is clear that he is far from an expert on the subject. But he does explain why trained artists might be in a special position to recognize the creative instincts of self-taught artists. “In baseball or soccer you have excellent scouts who can watch young

# outsider fair art

athletes play, they are able to see even then that they have great muscle, agility, build or physique,” he offers, “and when we look at self-taught art we can also appreciate this kind of physicality in their work, the agility and flexibility of their hand and brain...the physical perfection is there, they are not trained but they can do it. As artists we train so hard it is sometimes difficult to get out of our shell, we have to think of careers and money, to be able to play by a certain set of rules that allow less creative freedom.” It is with an abiding wonder of that raw state, that *Super-Rough* is dedicated.

**Featuring:**

Alikan Abdollahi  
A.C.M.  
Jose Adario dos Santos  
Paul Amar  
Gil Batle  
Hawkins Bolden  
Raimundo Borges Falcão  
Murat Briere  
David Butler  
John Byam  
Seyni Awa Camara  
James Castle  
Gaston Chaissac  
Nek Chand  
Ulisses Pereira Chaves  
Chomo (Roger Chomeaux)  
Raymond Coins  
Alan Constable  
Ronald & Jessie Cooper  
Guillaume Couffignal  
Curtis Cuffie  
Stroff Denis  
Tom Duncan  
William Edmondson  
Louis (Louie) Estape  
Howard Finster  
John Foxell  
Yuki Fujioka  
Dennis Gordon  
Cindy Gosselin  
Manuel Graziano  
Manoel Galdino de Freitas  
Bessie Harvey  
Yasuhiro Hirata  
Lonnie Holley  
Rev. J.L. Hunter

out  
sider fair  
art

Kazumi Kamae  
Sylvia Katuszewski

Yumiko Kawai  
Jan Krizek  
Hans Krusi  
Ralph Lanning  
Georges Liautaud  
Ted Ludwiczak  
Jordan Laura MacLachlan  
Jerry the Marble Faun  
Jose Marquez  
Francis Marshall  
Maruch Méndez  
Edward Nagrodzki  
Michel Nedjar  
Ryuji Nomoto  
Moses Ogden  
Tony Pedemonte  
Elijah Pierce  
Emile Ratier  
O.L. Samuels  
Shinichi Sawada  
Hans Schmitt  
Judith Scott  
Charles Simmons  
Kambel Smith  
Richard C. Smith  
Sylvain and Ghyslaine  
Staëlens Daniel Swanigan  
Snow  
Chico Tabibuia  
Ionel Talpazan  
Terry Turrell  
Monica Valentine  
Willem Van Genk  
Eugene Von Bruenchenhein  
Memory Ware  
George Widener  
Terry Williams  
Hideaki Yoshikawa  
Anonymous Artists

**Participating Galleries:**

Chris Byrne  
Carl Hammer Gallery  
Cathouse Proper  
Cavin-Morris Gallery  
Center for Creative Works

out  
sider fair  
art

Creative Growth Art Center  
Dutton

Andrew Edlin Gallery  
Fleisher/Ollman Gallery  
Galería MUY  
Galerie Lange  
Galerie Pol Lemétais  
Henry Boxer Gallery  
Hirschl & Adler  
Jennifer Lauren Gallery  
JP Ritsch-Fisch  
Marion Harris  
Mariposa Unusual Art  
NEXUS SINGULARITY (Aarne Anton)  
Norman Brosterman  
Private Collector  
Ricco/Maresca Gallery  
Shelter  
SHRINE  
SITUATIONS  
Steven S. Powers  
The Gallery of Everything  
Venus Over Manhattan  
Yukiko Koide Presents

###

***Super-Rough***

**June 9 – June 27, 2021**

**150 Wooster Street, SoHo, New York City**

**Tickets: \$10**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/153881320171>

**VIP & Press Preview:**

Tuesday, June 8, 11:00am-7:00pm

**Public Hours:**

Wednesdays – Saturdays: 11:00am-7:00pm

Sunday: 12:00-6:00pm

Monday: closed

Tuesday: closed

**About the Outsider Art Fair:**

Founded in New York in 1993, the Outsider Art Fair is the original art fair concentrating specifically on self-taught art, presenting works by acknowledged masters such as Henry Darger, Bill Traylor and Aloïse Corbaz, as well as living artists like George Widener, Susan Te Kahurangi King, Dan Miller and Luboš Plný. Soon

recognized for its maverick spirit, OAF played a vital role in nurturing a passionate collecting community and broader recognition for outsider art in the contemporary art arena.

In 2012, Wide Open Arts, a company founded by gallerist Andrew Edlin, acquired the fair. Propelled by its immediate success in New York, a Paris edition was inaugurated in October 2013, helping to reinvigorate that city's long tradition in the art brut field. In 2018, the fair expanded to its current venue, Atelier Richelieu, located in the 2nd arrondissement.

**Connect:**

[www.outsiderartfair.com](http://www.outsiderartfair.com)

@outsiderartfair @takashipom  
#OutsiderArtFair #SuperRough  
#Murakami  
**Press Contact:** Cultural Counsel

[outsider@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:outsider@culturalcounsel.com)

out  
sider art fair