

8 Objects Too Good to Miss at the Outsider Art Fair

A Beat poet's self-portrait, a 1930s circus poster, Georgia Russell's three-foot dolls — these are some of the singular finds at this busy Manhattan fair.



By **Will Heinrich**

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If you're new to the genre, this year's 32nd edition of the Outsider Art Fair offers a crash course for only \$35. (Last year's tickets were \$44.) From an unmissable Elijah Pierce sculpture of the crucifixion (**Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, A5**) to a spectacular mixed-media Thornton Dial painting (**Andrew Edlin Gallery, A12**), and from the artist and investigator Abigail Goldman's "die-o-ramas" (**Hashimoto Contemporary, C17**) to the sinuous drawings of Shuvinai Ashoona and Quvianaqtuk Pudlat's formidable colored pencil caribou (**Feheley Fine Arts, B10**), the event is well-stocked with classics and new additions alike. For those who've been to this party before, however, the chief joy of this often overwhelming fair, where many exhibitors cram their booths with work by a dozen artists and the quality ranges widely, is the small, singular discovery. What follows are eight pieces or groups of pieces that caught my eye.

Untitled Bundles

Aarne Anton/Nexus Singularity, C21



Cindy Gosselin's string-wrapped Barbies and Disney princess dolls. Jeenah Moon for The New York Times

Cindy Gosselin's string-wrapped Barbies and Disney princesses aren't the only such bundles in the fair. **The Center for Creative Growth (D21)** has two magisterial pieces by Judith Scott, and Yuka Nohda's exhaustively-wrapped objects appear with **Jennifer Lauren Gallery (B1)** of Manchester. But Gosselin's in particular, which leave only the dolls' heads and feet free, look like attempts to metabolize the violence and misogyny of popular culture, or simply to render pointy plastic doodads tender and warm. Think of oysters making pearls around sand.

Outsider Art Fair New York

Advance access Feb. 29, after 6 p.m. (\$100); opens March 1-3 (single day pass, \$35);
Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street, Manhattan; 917-623-9023;
outsiderartfair.com.