

MEDIA RELEASE

John Byam

Unearthed

January 14 – February 26, 2017

Reception: January 14, 4-6pm

Using various combinations of wood, sawdust, glue, paint and ink, Byam created sculptures that follow a long tradition of woodcarving in rural America and that hearken a bygone era - the advent of the space program or TV series like "Lost in Space." 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. Many of his works imply a longing for travel and exploration way beyond the geographical confines of his daily life, which was largely spent assisting his parents with the daily operations of the family-owned trailer court in upstate New York. Other themes include the military - tanks, planes, artillery pieces - which reference his two-year stint with the U.S. Army in Japan during the Korean War, various manifestations of stairways (which appear to lead nowhere), and simple furniture: chairs, desks, tables and benches.

John Byam was born in Oneonta, New York in 1929. In the late 1940s, he went to work for the Delaware and Hudson Railway. In 1952 he returned home from the military and took several jobs, including one as a part-time gravedigger for a local cemetery. His work is included in the permanent collections of the American Folk Art Museum (New York), the Musée d'Art Brut (Lausanne), the Museum of Everything (London), and the Collection ABCD (Paris). This is the gallery's second solo exhibition of his work which has also been exhibited at the Collection de L'Art Brut (Lausanne), La maison rouge (Paris), Postmasters Gallery (New York), and with the gallery at the Armory Show, NADA Miami Beach and the Outsider Art Fair. Byam was too sick to attend his first New York gallery show in January of 2013 and died shortly thereafter. He didn't live quite long enough to see his work in museum collections or read the reviews of his art in the press.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *John Byam: Unearthed*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 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 *this one is smaller than this one*, curated by Paulina Bębecka, Postmasters, New York, NY
- World Made By Hand*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 *I Taught Myself*, Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2014 The Armory Show, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 *Véhicules*, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2012 *John Byam & Matt Blackwell*, Parker's Box Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

PRESS

- 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

- American Folk Art Museum, New York
- Collection ABCD, Paris, France
- Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Museum of Everything, London, England