

Outsider Art Fair: A Must See

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outsider art fair 2015

The Outsider Art Fair is probably the most refreshing, original, and most humane of all contemporary art events: about forty galleries dedicated to raw and outsider art occupy the Hôtel du Duc on Michodière Street from October 22-25.

Gallery owners are different there: while you are attempting to understand a convoluted drawing, they come to you and tell you the often fascinating story of the artist behind the drawing. That's because Outsider Art is mainly the art of deviant paths, unusual characters, and fits of aesthetic madness, it requires a talent for storytelling... Thus, at the stand of Galerie du Marché (Lausanne), we learn from the gallery owner himself that a drawing made of tiny patterns shaped like letters is in fact the diary of artist Carlo Keshishian, who recounts his last four months in microscopic, almost unreadable writing.

At the Jean Greset Gallery, the obsessive longings for travel of Bernadette Touilleux are placed next to the great wooden sculptures of Francis Marshall representing mermaid fisheries... More abstract and even stronger, the excessive scribbles of Eric Derochette and Eric Derkenne at the stand of 'S' Grand Atelier have something mesmerizing: we feel an overwhelming need to seize a pen and scribble across a sheet of paper in an orgasmic burst of creativity.

More famous and as attractive as ever, the paintings of Scottie Wilson, showcased by several galleries (including England & Co), present dreamy, hallucinatory, bizarre and naïve visions of animals, monsters, fauna and flora. The sublime washed watercolor of Franck K. Lundangi are also a great discovery at the Polysémie gallery.

It is difficult to recount everything that we liked at this splendid and rich fair. A must see!