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The Collector's Eye  
Expertise

## Collecting Outsider Art

Is Outsider Art outside all norms? It certainly is, though it is getting more and more integrated in contemporary art... By Marie Zawisza.

Don't mention Titian or Monet to them. Those artists started to paint or carve without having seen a single piece of art. "They create from instinct," explained John Maizels, founder of the British magazine *Raw Vision* which is dedicated exclusively to such creations on the margins of art history. On the 25th anniversary of the magazine, the first to have given Outsider Art an international dimension, the Paris-based Halle Saint-Pierre pays tribute to the publication with an exhibition. This kind of art is now on the rise. The Venice Biennale is giving space to those artists, long despised by traditional institutions. And the 21-year-old New York-based Outsider Art Fair will hold its first Parisian edition October 24-27, just a few steps away from the Grand Palais which is hosting the FIAC. "We would like to attract contemporary art lovers, just like we did in New York," said Andrew Edlin, the Outsider Art Fair director. But who are those Outsider artists who appeared suddenly under the spotlight? Some of them are qualified as "raw," others are said to be "outsider" or "peculiar."

Let's have a quick overview. The term « Art Brut » was first used by the painter Jean Dubuffet in 1945: it referred to the "art of insane people" revealed in the nineteenth century's psychiatric asylums. Doctors showed interest in the work of their patients and some of them, such as Adolf Wolfli or Aloise Corbaz, became emblematic figures of the Art Brut movement and of Dubuffet's collection, which he donated to the Lausanne municipality in 1971. In the 1970s, the broader term "Outsider art" appeared in the United States. It included "raw artists" as well as "peculiar" artists with no artistic culture. The market expanded immediately. The Outsider Art Fair held in New York's art galleries area of Chelsea attracted this year 10,000 visitors in one weekend. But the prices of artworks made by the "masters" of the Outsider Art movement remain lower to those of the stars of modern or contemporary art: an artwork by the prolific Wolfli can be bought between 20,000 and 200,000 euros. Nevertheless, an artwork by the most prominent artists such as the Americans Henry Darger and Martin Ramirez can now go for more than 200,000 euros.

Where can you purchase Outsider Art?

"Outsider Art Fair," October 24-27, 2013

Hôtel Le A, Paris-8 [www.outsiderartfair.com](http://www.outsiderartfair.com)

``Eugene Von Bruenchenhein," until November 23, 2013  
Christian Berst Gallery, Paris-3 [www.christianberst.com](http://www.christianberst.com)

``Victor Soren," in November, Béatrice Soulié Gallery, Paris-6  
[www.galeriebeatricesoulie.com](http://www.galeriebeatricesoulie.com)