

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"
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 takes 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 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.”

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 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
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
Bessie Harvey
Yasuhiro Hirata
Lonnie Holley
Rev. J.L. Hunter
Kazumi Kamae
Sylvia Katuszewski

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

Participating Galleries:

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

@outsiderartfair @takashipom

#OutsiderArtFair #SuperRoughOAF

#Murakami

Press Contact:

Cultural Counsel outsider@culturalcounsel.com