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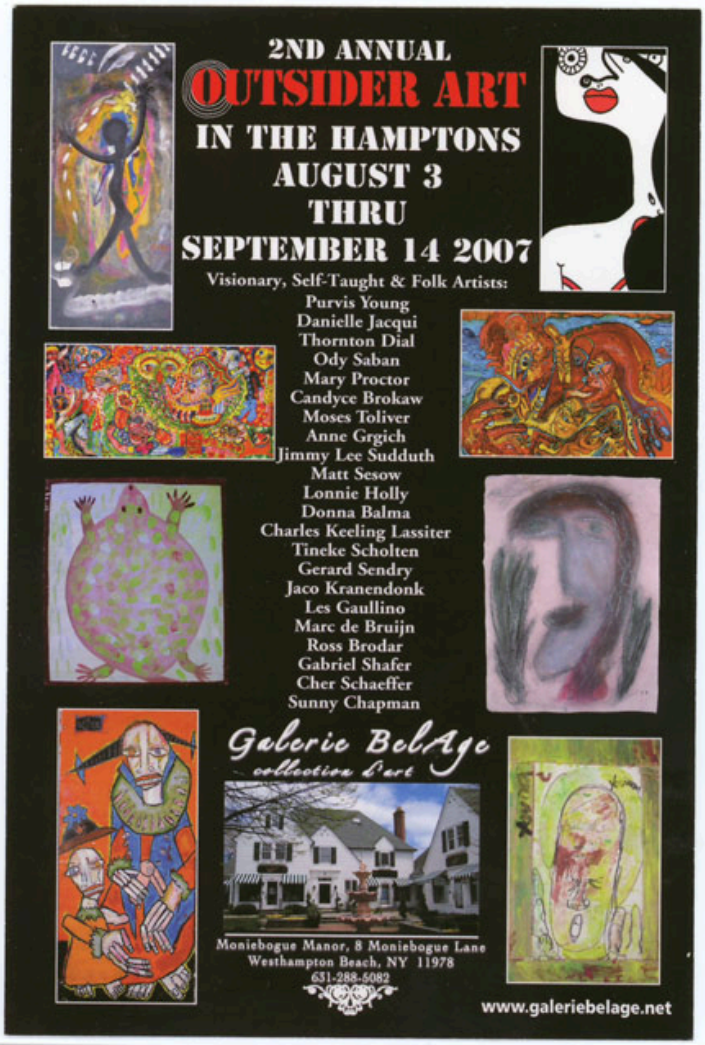
Outsider Art in the Hamptons

Galerie BelAge
Hamptons, NY: August 2007



Please join us for a Group Reception & Meet the Artists

Saturday, August 11th, 2007 6:00pm to 9:00pm

OUTSIDER ART
IN THE HAMPTONS
AUGUST 3 THRU SEPTEMBER 14, 2007



THIS SHOW IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE CUTTING EDGE IN SOUTHERN FOLK ART AND SELF-TAUGHT VISIONARY + OUTSIDER ART. A COMBINATION OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AND UP AND COMING ARTISTS WILL BE DISPLAYING AMAZING WORKS IN THIS EXCITING GENRE OF ART.

The term Outsider Art was coined by art critic Roger Cardinal in 1972 as an English synonym for Art Brut (which literally translates as 'Raw Art') 'Outsider Art' is often applied more broadly, to include certain self-taught or Naive art. Much Outsider Art illustrates extreme mental states, unconventional ideas, or elaborate fantasy worlds. The crossover of Folk Art with Outsider Art is undeniable, but a key distinction between Folk and Outsider Art is that Folk Art typically embodies traditional forms and social values, where Outsider Art stands in some marginal relationship to society's mainstream. Collected by such notable celebrites as Robin Williams, John Waters, Matt Dillon and others.

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your world view!



Hours: Mon-Thur 10am-5pm, Fri-Sat 11am-9pm, Sun 11am-7pm
For more information please call 631-288-5082

Also Featuring works by:
Chagall, Degas, Dali, Picasso, Peter Max, Andy Warhol & others

Galerie BelAge

Located at 8 Moniebogue Lane behind Margarita Grille Restaurant

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'Outsider' art: a show of triumph

BY AILEEN JACOBSON
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Every night, Candyce Brokow lies stomach-down on her black velour bedspread and finishes two to three artworks, she says. Many are whimsical images of people or animals made with hundreds of dots of paint squeezed from a tube or pen. Some dots have circles drawn around them. Some have smaller dots inside. All the art glows with color.

"It's been my salvation. It's everything to me," says Brokow, 53, a mother of four adult daughters who lives with her husband in a three-level house in Quogue that brims with her pieces.

Recently, her house also contained hundreds of works by other artists from around the world, propped on walls and furniture, ready to be transported to nearby Galerie BelAge in Westhampton Beach. The show, the second annual "Outsider Art in the Hamptons," runs through Sept. 14. Brokow organized it as part of her work as director of Survivors Art Foundation, an online group she founded in 1997 for survivors of different kinds of traumas.

Brokow started expressing herself through art about a decade ago, she says, to help her recover from sexual abuse and rape that she experienced as a teen. It has helped her heal, she says — though she wants her art judged on its merits, "not because of what happened to me." Brokow, who calls herself obsessive-compulsive, speaks with bright, quick urgency.

"My early work was very painful," she says during a recent tour of her home, as she brings out a few of those drawings. But it helped: "I went from painful to happy." Her images still spring from her fingers unplanned, in a stream-of-consciousness way, she says.

Some of the proceeds from the show's sales will go to her foundation, which has participated in various exhibits in the past, including at the United Nations in Manhattan and Hofstra University in Hempstead. Six of the show's 31 artists are members of her group. Most of the artists are self-taught and in some way outside the mainstream, including six who work in a studio in the Netherlands for mentally challenged people.

Paintings by several African-American Southern folk artists well-known in their field, including Thornton Dial, Purvis Young and the late Mose Tolliver, are a major part of the show. A $12,000 piece by Dial is the most expensive, but many works are around $50, she says. These include some of her own, drawn on small squares of aluminum flashing (for roofing) she buys at Home Depot. Some of her works dangle from chains. Other artists' works rest in revolving racks or portfolios.

But some 150 pieces — including a painting that incorporates smashed Coke cans by Florida artist Missionary Mary Proctor and a child's desk by French artist Danielle Jacqui — will be on full display.

Brokow first visited Galerie BelAge, in a 1927 Tudor mansion, in the spring. "I just walked in one day with my personal folder," she says.

The manager, Bob Deets, says he was intrigued. "First of all, it's her personality. You can't beat that," Deets says. "She's just a ball of energy. She's a whirling dervish of energy." He was impressed by her art, he adds, and immediately included it in an exhibit. He also liked the idea for the outsider-art show, which last year was held in a smaller gallery. "I can't wait to start hanging it," he says. "It's such a fun show."

"Outsider Art in the Hamptons," Galerie BelAge, 8 Moniebogue Lane, Westhampton Beach, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday; free reception with some artists 6-9 p.m. next Saturday; 631-288-5082; survivorsartfoundation.org.



NEWSDAY PHOTO / MICHAEL E. ACH

Candyce Brokow with one of her prints, which will be exhibited at the "Outsider Art in the Hamptons" show at Galerie BelAge.

A stitch in time

For Meryl Ann Butler, a quilt is like a hug, another way to heal through art.

When Butler, who lives in California, heard about the April shootings at Virginia Tech that left 32 students dead, she was relieved to learn that her daughter, who studies medicine there, was unharmed. But, Butler says, "I wanted to extend my mother's hug to her."

Fortunately, Butler, who grew up in Glen Cove, had just authored "90-Minute Quilts: 15+ Projects You Can Stitch in an Afternoon."

"I made a comforting quilt for her, and then one for the school," Butler says. Though she finished her daughter's lap quilt in a day, the university's quilt took about two weeks, she says, because it has 450 pieces. She's using the larger quilt to help raise funds for the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund (for more on the fund, visit vt.edu or call 800-533-1144; for more on the book, visit 90minutequilts.com).

Butler, 54, says she also plans to give copies of her book to the Glen Cove Public Library and Glen Cove schools.

Butler came to art early in life. During and after high school, she says, she studied art with the late Harold Ransom Stevenson in Sea Cliff. At 21, she married and left for Louisiana, where she opened her own art school.

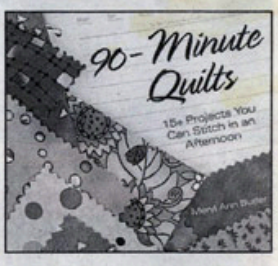
In 1982, while visiting her parents in Glen Cove with her husband and daughter, she says, they all went to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on Broadway. That led to her wanting to "wear my dreams" on her own clothing. When she returned home, she found a woman had started quilting classes two blocks away.

"I got hooked on textiles," she says. "A quilt makes people feel happy" and can heal its maker and recipient. "They don't call quilts comforters for nothing."



PHOTO BY THERESA LOCKE

Meryl Ann Butler, formerly of Glen Cove, with the quilt she made for her daughter after authoring "90-Minute Quilts"



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