



ART

SANTA FE • 2015

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR **JULY 9-12** SANTA FE CONVENTION CENTER

AMERICAN FOLK & OUTSIDER ART

ART Santa Fe 2015 is delighted to welcome first time contributor, Marcia Weber Art Objects, to the fair this year. Since 1991, Marcia Weber Art Objects of Montgomery, Alabama has sought out and offered rare and unique works of Outsider and Folk Art by a diverse range of talented American Artists. The gallery's mission is to preserve and promote the works of genuine contemporary American Folk and Outsider artists. These artists are self-taught and most often their work and artistic process are shaped by available found materials and isolated lifestyles. The work which these artists create comes from outside of the confines of the Fine Art or academically trained art worlds and therefore offers a refreshing and singular artistic vision. Marcia Weber Art Objects, which has presented in shows in New York, Chicago, and Atlanta, will be bringing the work of several artists to Santa Fe this year.

The work of Alabama native Jimmie Lee Sudduth (1910-2007) is prized by collectors internationally and today is included in major museum collections such as The Smithsonian and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. One of Sudduth's first memories was of painting a picture at the age of three. Although he used paints when he had access to them, Sudduth was well-known for his use of mud, clay, dirt and other natural materials like berries and soot (often mixed with sugar, molasses, or even Pepsi as a binder) in his layered and subtly shaded finger-painted works.

Unlike Sudduth, Mose Tolliver (1920-2006) came to painting at a later age. Born one of twelve children to a share-cropper father, Tolliver left school early and became a gardener known for his artistic flair. An accident with a forklift in the late 1960's left Tolliver injured and disabled for the rest of his life. He began to paint as a way to battle the boredom and depression which followed his injury. He painted on any surface he could find (ply-board, old furniture). The inventiveness, humor, and creative spark of his work have been noted by critics and his art is now hung in prestigious collections such as The Smithsonian and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Woodie Long (1942-2009) was also the son of a share-cropper. His first work, outside of field work as a child, was as a house painter. He began to occasionally paint pictures on the walls of houses he was painting, covering these before they were discovered. In 1987, due to health problems brought on by his job, he was told by his doctor to stop painting houses. He began painting on paper as a way to satisfy his "itch" to paint a house. Never having been to school to learn to read or write, his work was primarily motivated by a desire to share his life's story with his children; many of his paintings are of memories. His vibrant paintings, filled with color and energy, are in the permanent collections of museums such as The Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Baltimore Museum.

The work of Howard Finster (1916-2001) introduced thousands in the mainstream to the concept of "outsider art." A Baptist Preacher for many years, Finster was inspired by a vision to paint great works of "sacred" art. Thus began a prolific career – painting images of pop culture icons, angels, mansions, mostly on cut out pieces of wood. His work included creating giant parks, such as "Paradise Garden" with poetic constructions made out of rubbish (with features such as a "Hubcap Tower" and a "Mirror House"). He came to national attention when his garden was featured in a rock video of band R.E.M. He later painted album covers both for R.E.M. and the band The Talking Heads. His work now appears in numerous collections and museums, including a partial reconstruction of his "Paradise Garden" in Atlanta's High Museum.

Born in 1928 in Emelle, Alabama, Thornton Dial's art has come to be respected and lauded by art critics world-wide. Though Dial made "things" (assemblages, sculptures of found objects) from an early age, he worked for nearly half a century in heavy industry, until the closing of the Pullman Plant in the 1980's, when Dial turned to making art full-time. His work is dense, often a mixture of found-object assemblage and paint, which takes its subject matter from history and current events. Michael Kimmelman, of the *New York Times*, wrote of Dial, "his energy and fluent line, abstracted in maelstroms of color, easily call to mind Pollock and de Kooning." His work has been included in prestigious exhibitions in New York and Washington, D.C. and is now included in the permanent collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Born in 1972, Michael Banks is one of the youngest artists brought to ART Santa Fe by Marcia Weber Art Objects. Bank's work combines found objects, building materials, and artist materials. His developed style includes using roofing tar as an undercoating on wood, with artist paint on top. Many of his paintings feature hauntingly strange portraits of distorted faces and carnivalesque colors. He has been awarded exhibitions in New York, Denver, and Atlanta. A one-man show at The Hurn Museum in Savannah garnered wide-spread recognition.

Marcia Weber Art Objects promises to be a bright addition to the constellation of offerings at ART Santa Fe this year. Select works from these artists and others will be on view from July 9-12 as part of the ART Santa Fe fair.

Image detail: Woodie Long, Wash Day, Acrylic on canvas, 14.5 x 18.5 inches; Marcia Weber Art Objects, Alabama

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