



Darger: The Henry Darger Collection at the American Folk Art Museum

Brook Davis Anderson , Michel Thevoz , Henry Darger (Illustrator) , John Parnell (Photographer)

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When Henry Darger died in 1973 at the age of 81, he left behind an astonishing cache of art, shocking in both its content and its sheer size. The trove included massive, multi-volume illustrated manuscripts, double-sided nine-foot-long watercolor murals, photo-enlarged tracings, and hundreds of sketches. Depicting a turbulent world, these works are the product of the fertile yet tormented imagination of a secretive Chicago janitor who has since been recognized as one of the supreme self-taught artists of the 20th century. Cataloguing in full color the American Folk Art Museum's recent acquisition of 37 paintings, among other Darger works, this informative yet affordable volume offers a general introduction to a controversial self-taught artist.

Darger: The Henry Darger Collection at the American Folk Art Museum Details

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Author : Brook Davis Anderson , Michel Thevoz , Henry Darger (Illustrator) , John Parnell (Photographer)

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From Reader Review Darger: The Henry Darger Collection at the American Folk Art Museum for online ebook

Miriam says

Darger's body of work is so extensive that it easy to selectively emphasize or avoid certain aspects. Some shows play it safe, displaying bucolic landscapes and frolicsome children and leaving out the scenes where those landscapes are littered with bloodied corpses and the children are dragged away in chains. Other curators gravitate to the darker elements, laying out image after image of naked hermaphroditic children, sensual winged creatures, and violent soldiers. The story itself is so strange, disjointed and above all long, that it is hardly possible to display it in a way that communicates the entire plot. In this volume, Anderson does a pretty good job balancing the violent, sexual, and decorative sides of Darger's work and instead leaves out the complex religious dimension, although there is a brief note about it at the end, by someone else.

Good reproduction quality, and I appreciated having at least some of the text as captions, since it is otherwise so small that it is barely legible.

Tosh says

Henry Darger is the ultimate 'outside' artist, but then again terms like that are really meaningless. He's a great artist. To dwell into his 'world' is both disturbing and beautiful at the same time. And there is an inky aspect to his work, which is the intensity that he puts himself through. Childlike poison to the max.

Christina says

I am so fascinated by this man.

Aaron the Pink Donut says

beautiful and haunting

Scott Ferry says

though there is little writings of darger in this book.. the pictures are intense!!

Timothy says

Pretty.

Diana Jou says

After watching the documentary on Henry Darger's life, *In the Realms of the Unreal*, I became an obsessed fan. Knowing his amazingly sad life story is crucial to appreciating his epic drawings.

George says

graphic designers suck and rip this guy off.

Arielle says

Darger is amazing. I saw a show of his at the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco. I was absolutely entranced - his drawings covered entire walls and told a completely twisted, yet somehow beautiful story about children. His art is haunting and sad and f*ed up. His brain was not like other people's brains - it was wired differently and this shadow of what his thoughts must have been has stayed with me for years. His drawings are like piercing-accurate visualizations of what was inside his head, like his brain turned outward and out on paper. There is no abstraction but there is angularity - the pictures form a concrete narrative but one that is so outside reality that it becomes obtuse, dark and magical. The fact that his art was found in his home after his death makes his own life story all that much more unreachable and hidden. His was a world and life filled with secrets, and ones that we probably don't want to know.

Nick says

I'd say this is my favorite of the Darger books I've yet seen. Perfect. My favorite painter of the late 20th century by a landslide. Why is it so impossible to keep books on him in print and under \$60? Many thanks to Baltimore's American Visionary Art Museum (THE best museum!) for showing his work some years ago, and basically changing me forever.

Rob says

Intense and intriguing. I found myself just getting lost in scaled down versions of Darger's originals.

Nicole says

I saw this collection in Chicago, it broke my heart.
