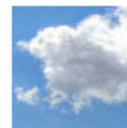


IN THE AIR

Art News & Gossip



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Art World Insider Andrew Edlin Takes Charge of the Outsider Art Fair

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outsider art

Contemporary art dealer **Andrew Edlin** purchased the 21-year-old Outsider Art Fair from founder and veteran fair organizer **Sanford Smith** in September. The next edition will take place from January 31 to February 3, 2013, at a new location, the **Dia Center for the Arts** in Chelsea. “We believe that outsider art has become more and more a part of the art world conversation,” Edlin told **ARTINFO**, noting that self-taught artist **Forrest Bess** was spotlighted at this year’s **Whitney**

Biennial. The move to the Dia building — also home to the **Independent** and **NADA** art fairs — will serve to place the Outsider Art Fair in the middle of the mainstream contemporary art world, he notes. (For the last five years, the fair was held at an event space on West 34th Street.)

“This year there will be some galleries that have never been at the Outsider Art Fair before, but may have a self-taught artist in their program,” says Edlin, who formed a new company, **Wide Open Arts**, in order to purchase the event. The dealer represents a number of so-called outsider artists himself, including janitor and prolific painter **Henry Darger**, schizophrenic draughtsman **Frank Calloway**, and self-taught Swiss painter **Hans Krusi**. “More and more collectors from the contemporary art community have begun to collect outsider art in the last several years,” says Edlin. “I thought this was an incredible opportunity.”

— *Julia Halperin*