

# Art in America

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### ANDREW EDLIN BUYS OUTSIDER ART FAIR

New York art dealer Andrew Edlin has bought the Outsider Art Fair, which will have its 21st edition, hosting about three dozen international galleries and dealers, Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 2013.

As well as new management, it will have a new location. It spent its first 15 years at SoHo's Puck Building and the last few years in Midtown; now it comes to the former home of the Dia Art Foundation, on 22nd Street in New York's Chelsea neighborhood, which has played host to an array of fairs, including the Independent.

Edlin's eponymous gallery, which has participated in the fair for seven years, mixes Outsider icons such as Henry Darger, Thornton Dial and Martin Ramirez with contemporary artists including Brian Adam Douglas,

Tom Duncan and Brent Green. Edlin began his career as an art dealer in 1996, when, though not working there himself, he secured a spot on the roster of New York's American Primitive Gallery for his uncle, Paul Edlin, an untrained artist who was deaf and often worked in collage.



Eugene Von Bruenchenhein, *Wand of the "Genii,"* 1956, oil on posterboard, 22 by 28 inches.

**BRIAN BOUCHER** Will you bring changes to the fair other than the new location?

**ANDREW EDLIN** For the first year, the new venue will be the most significant thing. It's a terrific building with a great history and in an excellent location. Given its size, the number of exhibitors will be about the same; there were 36 in the 2012 edition.

**BOUCHER** What can you tell us about those exhibitors?

**EDLIN** All the best Outsider art dealers will be there, including a number of prominent ones that didn't participate last year, like Ricco/Maresca Gallery, Galerie St. Etienne, Cavin-Morris Gallery [all New York] and Carl Hammer Gallery [Chicago]. I expect to have some other new additions I can't name just yet.

**BOUCHER** You mix Outsider and conventionally trained artists at your gallery. Does the Outsider field need a separate fair now that artists like Darger and Ramirez have been effectively mainstreamed?

**EDLIN** That's certainly a topic that we who specialize in Outsider art discuss at length. Maybe we'll organize a panel discussion on that. But I have no plans to blur boundaries or change definitions at the fair. Its renegade feel is one of the great things about it. You'll see things there that you won't see anywhere else. To buy it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. When I first opened my gallery, in 2001, I couldn't even get into this fair. And now I own it!