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Inside the Outsider Art Fair

RUN! don’t walk to The Outsider Art Fair at the Metropolitan Pavilion this weekend in New York City. Unlike big top art fairs, the gallerists presenting here are often quirky and eager to share the story behind the art — and the stories are priceless. Here you will come across the “Poppet Dolls” of a lifelong Tarot reader from Astor place, a Swiss painter who can tell you why donkeys are good and birds are bad and the art of “Nambia.”

The Art at the fair is affordable unless your looking for a Bill Traylor, of which there is plenty, but I recommend keeping your eyes peeled for luring images. They have something vivid to tell you. The gallerists will share their archives and take you on a rapture, many having themselves spent time in the world of the creators.

And so, without further ado here are my favorite digs from this years fair.

As a native New Yorker and Jungian fanatic I could not help but gush over this wall of primeval voodoo like dolls made by Angela Rogers. This magnum Opus is called The Celestial Choir and is presented by Fountain House Gallery. The artist states that this collection is a love letter to queens in the tarot. Rogers has thirty five years experience of reading tarot cards in the East Village, she refers to her creations as “Poppets” which is an old English spelling of the word puppet. Used in folk magic and witchcraft poppets were originally made from corn husk, cloth, or sticks and used for magical purposes like conjuring.

«Celestial Choir» by Angela Rogers presented by Fountain House Gallery