

English summary

I am who I am; Marianne Schipaanboord

Marianne Schipaanboord (1965) is a woman with spasticity as well as having a hearing and speech impairment. Notwithstanding, her artistic talent allows her to create remarkable art and to communicate with the world in a unique way. She draws and writes about her daily life and her past memories. Basically, many of her drawings are a direct and pragmatic means of communication. Marianne knows she is protected by God. Her art is a personal quest for understanding religious questions and paradoxes. The tranquil inspiration of her religious beliefs with which she suffuses her drawings is of outstanding beauty. pp. 8-11

Endless desire; Charlotte Zander

Charlotte Zander has assembled the world's largest private collection of naive art, Art Brut and Outsider Art. Over 4,000 works of art have been housed in Museum Charlotte Zander in Bönnigheim, near Stuttgart in Germany, since 1996. Charlotte Zander started collecting early. 'Even now, when I pass a gallery and see a picture that interests me, I can't get to sleep that night. So the next morning, I'm there to buy it. It's always that same kick you get out of acquiring something of real quality'.



With the owner's advancing age, the future of Schloss Bönnigheim is uncertain from a financial point of view. Hopefully, this unique collection will remain open to the growing number of admirers of this particular type of art for many years to come. pp. 14-20

Visited and viewed; Ria Mul in De Pont

Work by Ria Mul was on display at the exhibition 'Mapping out Paradise' by Marc Mulders and Claudy Jongstra in the Dutch Museum De Pont in Tilburg. This artist with autism and learning

disabilities has worked with Mulders for years. He gave Ria a diorama containing attributes on the theme of 'paradise', which she used to compose a scene of her own, and then as a basis for the paintings seen in the exhibition. The fact that her works are part of an exhibition concept in an art museum is a boost for Outsider Art. p. 29

The place to be; Madmusée

Known since 2003 quite simply as the Mad, the Musée d'Art Différencié in Belgium is marking its tenth anniversary. Specialising in art made by people with learning disabilities, the museum feels that the term 'différencié' no longer fits the 1,500 and more paintings, sculptures, collages, drawings and videos made by some 200 national and international artists. The museum's foremost activities are conducting research, bringing out publications and organising symposia to promote public debate. In connection with a refurbishment, temporary exhibitions will, for the time being, be on display at the Mad Galerie at the usual address, Parc d'Avory in Liège. pp. 35-38

Religion

Howard Finsters devine quota

After being 'called by the Lord', Howard Finster (1916-2001) started spreading the gospel. When he preached, he used spiritual sculptures he had made of lost and found objects that had been stored for years in *Paradise Gardens*.



He painted his first religious work in 1976. With over 46,000 signed works to his name, Finster is regarded as one of Folk Art's most prolific artists. Creating became a means of redemption. Using the gospel, he communicated his personal vision by sometimes combining compact passages from the Bible with simple pictures and icons of popular culture. pp. 4-7

The flight to Egypt according to Werner Voigt

Werner Voigt (1935) is one of the most well-known artists of 'Die Schlumper', a workshop for people with learning disabilities in Hamburg, Germany. A Christian faith informs all his work. Blends of colours, texts and one-dimensional figures heavily outlined in black are characteristic of his joyful body of work. It is particularly this cheerful simplicity that seems to make his work so appreciated by connoisseurs all over the world. pp. 12-13



Johanneke van Nus; the Bible in literal translation

Using clean lines and bright colours, Johanneke van Nus (1975) brings the Old and the New Testaments to life. She surprises us with her personal opinions: in her detailed paintings, once God has finished His work, she lets Him relax in a hammock. Paint, canvas and paper give this eager artist a chance to express in a very personal way the religious feelings on which she was brought up. Her work is cherished by individuals and church communities alike. She herself says that she draws and paints with 'the power she received from God'. pp. 21-25

Norbert H. Kox; rebel with a cause

When in 1974 a prayer saves him from an acid trip gone wrong, the life of biker and troublemaker Norbert H. Kox (1945) changes. After receiving an inner calling from God, he gives away his worldly possessions and withdraws into the Wisconsin woods. From then on his life is dedicated to studying the Word of God in its original language: Hebrew. Kox aims to unlock hidden messages in the Bible using a digital matrix called the 'Bible Code' and to demonstrate links between events in the past, present and future. He came to realize that modern Christianity, as well as secular society, is a vehicle of evil. From Roman Catholic



Christianity to the Freemasons, from Santa Claus to Sallman's popular Head of Christ, occult powers are at work everywhere. Kox makes his findings public through his visionary paintings ('apocalyptic visual parables'), his books, website, Myspace page and films on YouTube. pp. 26-28

Romanenkov; sacred memories

Painter Vasilij Romanenkov (1953), born in rural Russia, is a religious man. For him, there is no difference between the material and the spiritual. With his great interest in the religious traditions of his native land and the decorative aspect of traditional folk art, this self-taught artist has created an entirely unique body of work.



However, not God but human beings are the focal point of his minutely detailed drawings. Though his perception of religion as a vehicle for social cohesion has a certain topicality, it would seem that, far away in Moscow, Romanenkov settles for the sacred memories that continue to nourish him morally and spiritually. pp. 30-34

Neeltje Smouter and God's help

Self-taught Neeltje Smouter (1915) emerged in the 1970s as a passionate painter. Her biblical pictures offer something to hold on to in times of 'moral decline'. She now lives in a care home and no longer paints. Originally, she used her over-full sitting room as a workshop, a room intended only for herself. She took pleasure in painting small, attractive scenes and still lifes. Many of her works have a biblical background. It was only through her paintings that she could resist what she regarded as the loss of God's world. pp. 39-41