

# Outsider Art

## Spontaneous Alternatives

Collin Rhodes

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## Outsider Art: Spontaneous Alternatives

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### Outsider Art: Spontaneous Alternatives

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'The best-informed and most lucid account of Outsider Art'

— Roger Cardinal

'In the minefield of myth, prejudice and counter-prejudice that constitutes the field of Outsider Art, Rhodes seldom puts a foot wrong' — *The Art Newspaper*

Outsider Art is the work produced outside the mainstream of modern western art by self-taught, untrained visionaries, spiritualists, eccentric recluses, folk artists, psychiatric patients, criminals and others beyond the imposed margins of society and the art market. Coined by Roger Cardinal in 1974, the term in English derived from Jean Dubuffet's 'Art Brut' — literally 'raw art', 'uncooked' by culture, unaffected by fashion, unremoved by artistic standards. In this indispensable book Colin Rhodes surveys the history and reception of Outsider Art — first championed by Dubuffet and the Surrealists, now appreciated by a wide public — while providing fresh insights into the achievements of both major figures and newly discovered artists. From spirit-guided Madge Gill to schizophrenic Adolf Wölfli, these individuals passionately and obsessively pursue the pictorial expression of their vision.

On the cover:

May T. Smith

*Red and Black*, c.1983

(detail). Courtesy the

Anton-Haardt Gallery,

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COLIN RHODES has written and lectured widely on modern and contemporary art. He is author of *Primitivism and Modern Art* (World of Art) and numerous articles and essays on Expressionism, Primitivism and Outsider Art. He studied Fine Art and Art History at Goldsmiths College, London University, before completing a PhD on Primitivism at the University of Essex. He was Director of Loughborough University School of Art and Design before taking up his current role of Dean and Professor of Art History and Theory at the University of Sydney.

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*For my mother, Beryl Rhodes*

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## Contents

6 Introduction

Chapter 1  
23 Art Brut

Chapter 2  
48 Art by the Insane

Chapter 3  
104 Alternative Worlds

Chapter 4  
140 Self-Taught Visionaries

Chapter 5  
198 Other Positions

218 Bibliography and Sources

220 List of Illustrations

223 Index