

# POWERS / LOWENFELS GALLERY

53 STANTON STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10002

powerslowenfels.com | 917-518-0809

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### FOLK ART USA: COAST TO COAST

New York, NY — In 1976, the Brooklyn Museum hosted Folk Sculpture USA, a seminal exhibit curated by the legendary collector Herbert Hemphill that coincided with America's bicentennial. With America now at 250, Powers / Lowenfels presents Folk Art USA: Coast to Coast. Folk Art USA: Coast to Coast will be on exhibit from June 11 - August 23, 2026.

Hemphill's curation for Folk Sculpture USA was deeply personal, and as Hilton Kramer wrote in the New York Times: "[The exhibit] is the art in folk art, rather than its folkloric sentiments." We took the same approach; it's not a show of just masterpieces but a wide range of compelling carvings and paintings from sea to shining sea. Folk Art hooked rugs from New England, Woodlands Indian carvings, idiosyncratic southern sculpture by Leroy Person, James Son Ford Thomas, and George Ohr, to engaging works from the Midwest and the West Coast, with Sanford Darling, John Roeder, and an important cement sculpture found in Los Angeles of a figure for a WWII Victory Garden figure, possibly by the visionary, Sam Rodia.

America has always had a diverse chorus. Eclectic timbres and collective consonance add texture—harmonies are formed by many voices. E pluribus unum, "out of many, one," is an American ethos. United we stand, divided we fall. Patriotism is not nationalism. Immigrants such as Israel Lutwik took great pride in becoming Americans.

In honor of the semiquincentennial, we have a remarkable WWII Folk Art carving of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima, the aforementioned WWII Victory Garden Figure, and a standout Stars and Stripes painted revivalist preacher's cross and case which ironically echoes the warnings of fascism, "wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross."

In addition to our summer exhibit, also in NYC, The American Folk Art has Folk Nation: Crafting Patriotism in the United States, MOMA is exhibiting American Folk Art from founding member Abby Aldrich, and the Met has, Revolution! (Works relating to the Revolutionary War).

The gallery is open Thursday-Sunday 12:00-6:00 pm. To keep up to date on gallery features follow Steven S. Powers (@stevenspowers) and Joshua Lowenfels (@ployaarrtt) on Instagram. The website address is PowersLowenfels.com

Exhibition website:

<https://www.powerslowenfels.com/portfolio-collections/my-portfolio/folk-art-usa>

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Exceptional Folk Art Heart in Hand Rug  
New England  
Dated: 1937 / Signed with conjoined "JF"  
Size: 37 1/2" x 32"

Large Doll Arm Factory Mold  
Copper, mixed metals, verdigris  
Circa: mid 20thC  
Size: 35" x 12" x 6"

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Folk Art Ventriloquist's Puppet Purse

Paper mache, wood, paint

Circa: 1925

Size: 15" x 10"

Provenance: Mendelsohn Collection

Illustrated in: *The Intuitive Eye*

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Install image with Revivalist Preacher's Cross and Flag Case, a Cruciform marble game board, Profiles of George and Abe, and a Folk Art Carving of The Raising of the Flag Over Iwo Jima

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Important Cement WWII Victory Garden Figure

Los Angeles, CA

Circa: 1943

Size: 36" x 35" x 18"

Illustrated in: American Vernacular

\*possibly by Sam (Simon) Rodia of The Watts Towers

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Asa Ames (1823-1851) Folk Art Sculpture of a Boy  
Carved wood, paint, leather shoes  
Circa: 1845-1850  
Size: 44" H

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Leroy Person (1907 - 1985) | Bench

North Carolina

Circa: 1978

Size: 24" x 35" x 14"

Provenance: Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1986;

Private Southern Collection.