

POWERS / LOWENFELS GALLERY

53 STANTON STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10002

powerslowenfels.com | 917-518-0809

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VENN'ACULAR

New York, NY — "Venn'acular" is a portmanteau of Venn [diagram] and vernacular, which is our aesthetic approach in a nutshell. This exhibit brings together numerous voices through engagement, dialogue, some slight discordance, and balance. September 10 - October 24.

A spectacular 19th-century African American pictorial textile is shown alongside a linen construction by Algerian-American Freddy Muñoz (1930-2020), a historical Japanese unglazed ceramic plate, and a reverse painting on glass by Californian Outsider John Roeder (1877-1964). Across the room, Pop-Art is presented with an impressive oversized clothespin made of fiberglass-reinforced plaster, paired with drawings by Edwin Lawson (1911-1980), who imagined himself cross-dressing in historic fashions—these lead into the flamboyant plumage of an Archaeopteryx, the earliest known bird. An 1893 pastel by Henry Dousa (1801-1903?) of five cows, painted decades before Warhol, bookends the Pop-Art vignette.

In the middle of the room, an African American green-and-black painted rocking chair with scenes of the Resurrection is triangulated with an egg and a Black goddess, along with numerous other carvings. A curious half-scale male figure, possibly by Morton Riddle (1909-1992), stands by the door; he's carved of wood with inset blue marble eyes—the remains of his bark exterior look like clothes.

Sapphic fashion drawings by Virginia Ahrens (1914-1978) are paired with a drawing by Lee Brozgol (1941-2021) illustrating a woman on a fire escape. Life hangs in the balance with a 60s spray-painted, tombstone-shaped panel with an array of hypodermic needles, a suspect 1920s breathing apparatus named the Lungmotor, an unusual Judgment Day painting, and a compelling abstract painting that looks like a Philip Guston if he painted the hemispheres of the brain.

A drawing recording Halley's comet from 1910 sits above an outstanding folk art carving from the same period: a mustachioed man sitting in a rocker, as if gazing at the comet above.

All this and more at the spectacular Venn'acular!

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 (@ploysarrtt) on Instagram. The website address is PowersLowenfels.com

Exhibition website:

<https://www.powerslowenfels.com/portfolio-collections/my-portfolio/vennacular>

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Install view to show scale of African American textile, and works by Freddy Muñoz, Japanese ceramic plate, and painting by John Roeder.

Important African American Folk Art Textile / Probably Southern United States / Circa: 1870
/ Size: 28 1/4" (h) x 81" (w)

Freddy Muñoz (Algiers/Minnesota, 1931-2020) / Birch wood and linen / "Untitled", 1975 /
Size: 12 5/8" x 12 5/8"

Ko Bizen botamochi toban / Okayama Prefecture, Japan / Momoyama Period (1568-1600) /
Size: 12 1/2" square

John Roeder (1877-1964) / Dark Trees / Reverse Painting on Glass / 1950 / 10" (h) x 12" (w)

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Install view with Pop-Art Clothespin, Edwin Lawson drawings, and Dinosaur Bird painting.

Pop-Art Clothespin / Artist Unknown / Fiberglass-Reinforced Plaster
Circa: 1950/60s / Size: 47 3/4" x 16 1/4" x 13"

Edwin Lawson (1911-1980) / Fashions 1950 / Crayon, pencil on paper
Circa: 1977

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Archaeopteryx: The Earliest Known Bird / Oil on board / 1966 / Size: 37" (h) x 27" (w)

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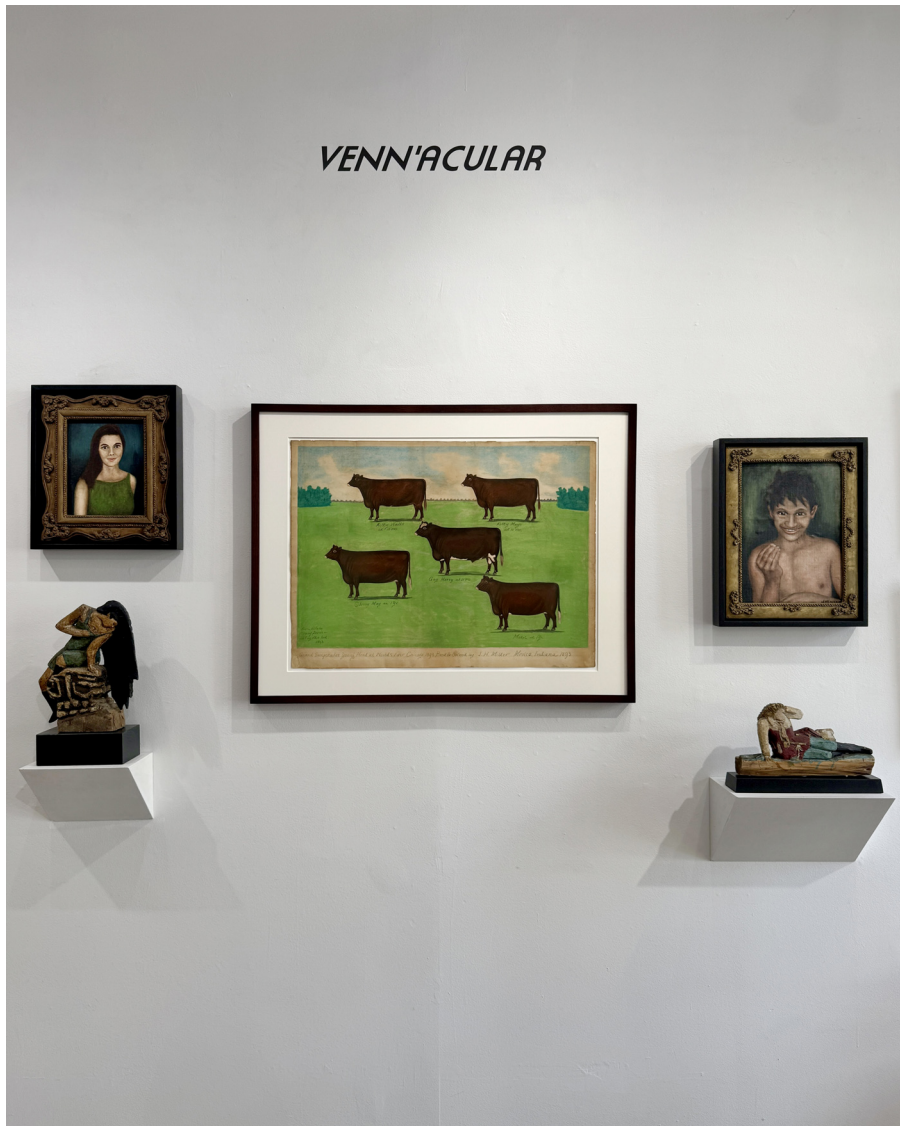


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Install view showing scale of Hewlett paintings, Michigan carver and Dousa Cows

Reverend Joel Hewlett (1921-1994) / Portrait of a Woman (Cross Silhouette) / 1960/70s
Size: 14" x 12 1/2" (with artist frame)

Echo (or Narcissus) / Anonymous Michigan Carver / Carved & Painted Wood
Circa: 1920/30 / Size: 9 3/4" x 12"

Henry Dousa (1801-1903ish) / Grand Sweepstakes Young Herd at Chicago World's Fair
Pastel on paper / Circa: 1893 / Size: 22" (h) x 29 3/4" (w) (sight)

Reverend Joel Hewlett (1921-1994) / Portrait of a Young Boy (Pan) / Circa: 1960/70s
Size: 16 1/2" x 12 1/2" (with artist frame)

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Install view with Virginia Ahrens, Lee Brozgol, and Sculptural Artist Palette

Virginia Ahrens (1914 - 1978) / Fashionable Fall Favorites / Fall 1934 / 8" x 5 1/2"

Virginia Ahrens (1914 - 1978) / Satin Sun Suits / 1940 / 8 1/2" x 11"

Lee Brozgol (1941-2021) / Woman on Fire Escape / Graphite on paper / 1978-1980
Size: 23" x 17"

Sculptural Artist Palette / Wood, plywood, paint / Circa: 1920s / 13" x 10 1/2" x 15"

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Install view with Halley's Comet drawing, Folk Art Puppet Heads, and Folk Art Man in Rocking Chair.

Folk Art Puppet Head / Dayton, OH / Ca. 1900 / Size: +/- 6" (h) x 4 1/2" (w)

Folk Art Puppet Head / Dayton, OH / Ca. 1900 / Size: +/- 6" (h) x 4 1/2" (w)

Halley's Comet, 1910 / Charcoal on paper / Dated and signed: E.M.C / May 23, 1910
Size: 9" x 12"

American Folk Art Man in Rocking Chair / Carved from the solid (wood) / Circa: 1910-20 /
Size: 11 1/2" x 5" x 8"