



HIRSCHL & ADLER MODERN

For Immediate Release

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Self-Taught Artists at the Crossroads of Fact and Fiction

March 13 – April 18, 2025

Hirschl & Adler Modern is proud to present ***Self-Taught Artists at the Crossroads of Fact and Fiction***, an exhibition featuring works by a distinguished group of self-taught artists, including Bill Traylor, James Castle, Willard Watson (aka The Texas Kid), Purvis Young, Lonnie Holley, Jeanne Brousseau, and James Edward Deeds. This compelling show, running from March 13 through April 18, 2025, offers a unique exploration of the intersection between reality and imagination, where the distinctions between truth and fiction blur, creating deeply personal and thought-provoking narratives.

The exhibition showcases the diverse visions and creative expressions of artists who, without formal training, developed innovative approaches to artmaking, often infused with personal histories, memories, and cultural storytelling. Their works span a range of media, from drawing and painting to sculpture, and represent a wide spectrum of emotional intensity, from the raw energy of Bill Traylor's vivid imagery to the meditative abstraction of Lonnie Holley's intricate, hand-crafted sculptures.

A key highlight of the exhibition is the debut of contemporary artist **George Widener** with Hirschl & Adler Modern. Widener, known for his meticulous works that merge mathematical precision with artistic expression, introduces new pieces that challenge conventional thinking and expand the boundaries of visual culture.

In addition to works by Widener, *Self-Taught Artists at the Crossroads of Fact and Fiction* will include works by:

- **Bill Traylor:** A seminal figure in the history of American art, Traylor's vibrant drawings capture the experiences and memories of a man who lived through profound social and political change.
- **James Castle:** Known for his deeply personal and intimate drawings, Castle's works convey a sense of isolation and introspection, often using simple materials like soot and saliva to create nuanced compositions.
- **Willard Watson, *The Texas Kid*:** His autobiographical work reflects his struggles with poverty and oppression, often integrating elements of folklore and Western imagery.
- **Purvis Young:** Combining elements of social commentary and folk tradition, Young's bold paintings and drawings reflect his observations of life and hardship in the streets of Miami.
- **Lonnie Holley:** A multidisciplinary artist whose assemblages, often made from found objects, convey powerful statements about personal history, spirituality, and society.
- **Jeanne Brousseau:** A lesser-known gem in the self-taught tradition, Brousseau's mysterious, delicate works evoke a dreamlike quality, exploring themes of memory, identity, and the human condition.
- **James Edward Deeds:** Known for his precise drawings that fuse line, color and symbolic references, Deeds' work offers a window into the artist's inner world, filled with stories and figures of personal significance.

Self-Taught Artists at the Crossroads of Fact and Fiction brings together works that explore the fluidity of truth and imagination, celebrating the unique ways in which these artists craft their own realities through art. Their ability to create outside the confines of formal education has led to a rich body of work that challenges accepted definitions of art and artists. Each piece in the exhibition offers a fresh, intimate view of the world, blending fact, myth, and fantasy into a captivating visual dialogue.

Self-Taught Artists at the Crossroads of Fact and Fiction opens at Hirschl & Adler Modern on Thursday, March 13 and runs through Friday, April 18, 2025. Located on the 9th floor of the historically landmarked Fuller Building, at the corner of 57th Street and Madison Avenue, Hirschl & Adler Modern is open Monday through Friday, from 9:30 am to 5:15 pm.

For additional information or images, contact Shelley Farmer, Director, or Thomas B. Parker, Director, at 212-535-8810 (phone) / 212-772-7237 (fax), or by email at ShelleyF@HirschlAndAdler.com or TomP@HirschlAndAdler.com. Please visit our website at www.HirschlAndAdler.com for an online preview of the exhibition.