Cream City» On Tap

Folk Art Menagerie

THE CURRENT FOLK ART EXHIBITION at the Milwaukee Art Museum promises something for everyone. With 600 works in the exhibit, we believe it. In "Uncommon Folk: Traditions in American Art," objects from duck decoys to walking sticks to paintings, photography and textiles are on display.

"The authentically American artistic expression identified in the work of folk and self-taught artists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries gave American art its own voice separate from the classical European style that dominated the art world at the time," says Margaret Andera, exhibition curator. "These artists, operating outside the art establishment, created work that was influenced by their communities and cultural traditions, rather than by art historical movements."

All of the works in the whimsical installation are from the museum's vast collection — MAM is the leading repository in the world for "outsider" art. They include quilts by the women of Gee's Bend, Ala., artwork by nearly a dozen African-American artists and a flock of nearly 30 duck decoys.

Among other events during the exhibition, which runs through May 4, are Duck Decoy Day, which will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 9, and a quilting sampler workshop from noon to 4 p.m. March 8. For more information, go to mam.org. M



"Young Girl With A Cat" by American painter Drossos P. Skyllas, 1955



