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Outsider Folk Art Gallery

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The Outsider Folk Art Gallery Presents “Raw Edges: Jim Bloom & Purvis Young”

READING, PA-- The Outsider Folk Art Gallery, located on the fifth floor of the Goggleworks Center for the Arts, is pleased to host a new exhibition showcasing artwork from the George and Sue Viener Collection of Folk, Self-Taught, and Visionary Art. The exhibit will run from December 2, 2011 to February 17, 2012. The exhibit includes paintings, drawings, and mixed media works on wood, paper, and other materials and is curated by Emily A. Branch, Gallery Director, who joined the Outsider Folk Art Gallery in June 2011.

The exhibition opening will be December 2, 2011, from 5:30-7:30PM at the gallery with food and refreshments provided by Good Eatz Green Café, West Reading.

The exhibit will feature work by Jim Bloom (b. 1965) and the late Purvis Young. Both Bloom and Young represent the largest holdings in the Viener collection totaling close to four-thousand active works. This exhibit parallels themes and techniques of each artist, both of whom never met, creating works that are diaries of their physical and psychological environments. Both artists also used uncommon art materials in the traditional sense, often choosing to create on whatever materials they could find or create.

This exhibit has been in the thoughts of the Viener's for many years and is now coming to fruition as the gallery is due to close in 2012. Recently each artist has had much acclaim in the world of self-taught art. Young, who died in 2010, recently had a masterpiece from the Good Bread Alley series, represented by the Viener's, doubling the previous auction record. Bloom has been recognized by galleries and prominent collectors on the east and west coasts, which has, in turn, driven the market for his works sending values skyward.

The title “Raw Edges” encompasses the personal and visual style of each artist, but also demands respect by the viewer.

“I have tried to put nice frames and matting on Bloom pieces for my clients, but they exclaimed they enjoy Bloom rough and raw. It cannot be contained under glass,” said Karl Slocum, Director of Knapp Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

Exhibit Dates: December 2, 2011-February 17, 2012

Opening Reception: Friday, December 2, 2011, 5:30-7:30pm, Outsider Folk Art Gallery, Fifth Floor, Goggleworks Center for the Arts, 201 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601