



THE ART NEWSPAPER

Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend

GABRIELLA ANGELETI and WALLACE LUDEL

9th October 2020 15:01 BST



Henry Darger, *During approach of second storm they seize a Glandelinian officer... / At Cedernine Have narrow escape from high explosive shells*, (around 1940-50) (and 1930-40). Double-sided watercolor, graphite and carbon tracing.

Courtesy of Andrew Edlin Gallery

The Double-Sided Dominions of Henry Darger at **Andrew Edlin Gallery** (until 7 November) shows a suite of colossal, two-sided watercolours by Henry Darger, a reclusive hospital custodian in Chicago who led a double life as a writer and prolific artist. The nine double-sided compositions by Darger—an artist known as the consummate artist of the Outsider genre who posthumously captured public imagination for his eccentric and sometimes violent paintings of pubescent girls with penises—stretch as long as nine-feet wide and are replete with his trademark cast of characters. Most recognisable are the Vivian sisters who, along with a slew of young cast mates, are rendered in a battle royale against their enemies, the child-enslaving adults known in Darger's world as Glandelinians. The world-building that makes up Darger's body of work is supremely intricate, with a lexicon all its own, and most of the paintings serve to illustrate his unpublished 15,000-page novel. The complex paintings on view at Edlin, which date between around 1930 and 1960, were discovered by the artist's landlord in 1973 as he was helping him move from his apartment into a nursing home, where Darger died only a few months later.