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Nine Artists Who Shine at the 2025 Outsider Art Fair

Our critic uncovers rarities and treasures from prominent collections, from uncanny photos and masks to works on paper and exuberant quilts.



By <u>Will Heinrich</u>

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The Outsider Art Fair, which opens to the public Thursday evening, can sometimes feel like a rock 'n' roll junk shop, full of chaos and noise. But this year's edition of the fair, at the Metropolitan Pavilion in Manhattan, is more like an uptown antique store — stocked with treasures but a little bit staid. Still, it remains a comparative bargain at only \$35 for entry, and its 66 exhibitors range from one end of this increasingly diffuse genre to the other.

Untitled Drawing by Pudlo Pudlat

Andrew Edlin Gallery, D14



Pudlo Pudlat's untitled colored pencil on paper drawing of a bird sailing a colorful sailboat at Andrew Edlin. Pudlo Pudlat; via Andrew Edlin Gallery

In this undated colored pencil drawing by the Inuit sculptor and painter Pudlo Pudlat (1916-1992), a sinuous ship decorated with a broad yellow stripe rides on the crest of a green wave, helmed by what looks like a gray and brown bird with a taciturn black beak. It's an extraordinary composition: The wave bulges under the prow, as if they're crossing the page together, while the avian captain looks toward the empty upper corner, serenely confident that his company of elegant pencil lines can fill any amount of unmarked space.