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Frank Walter at Andrew Edlin Gallery

A self-taught Caribbean artist who worked largely in isolation and used whatever everyday materials he could find, Frank Walter was descended from enslaved Africans and Scottish plantation owners. Born on the island of Antigua in 1926, he was highly educated and ambitious, becoming the first person of color on the island to manage a sugar plantation. He traveled to England to learn methods for modernizing the sugar industry and research his family history, but he faced racism while working odd jobs in Europe over the next decade—experiences that would greatly influence his future creative work. Later in life, he became a reclusive visionary, living in an isolated, self-built home and **studio**, completely devoted to his creative output.

Before his death in 2009 at age 82, Walter produced thousands of soulful paintings and drawings, hundreds of hand-carved wood sculptures, tens of thousands of pages of arresting writing, audio recordings, and photographs. His undated *Untitled (Abstracted Face)* painting, rendered on a found scrap of wood, is part of the Cowles-Hoard Collection, which comprises pieces acquired by the Cowles-Hoard family—close personal friends and the primary patrons during Walter's lifetime. At Frieze Masters, the gallery presented selections from the **collection** in a two-person exhibition alongside sculptural shack structures by Beverly Buchanan, another notable self-taught artist and the subject of a newly published monograph.

Image: Frank Walter, Untitled (Abstracted Face), no date. Oil on wood, 20.5 x 17.5 inches.