

## THE MENNELLO MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

In the late spring of 1994, the City of Orlando's Public Art Program organized an exhibition titled "The Passionate Eye: Florida Self-Taught Art". It was one of the first exhibits organized in the state that dealt with a group of artists who had previously received either little or no recognition. These artists had not studied art – color, composition, technique or theory. The works of art shown were created by each artist with an intensity that represented their individual emotion and intuition, not their intellect or reason.

After that show the decision was made to include works by the self-taught in the city's collection of art. But even then, no one had even the slightest idea or harbored the hope that in the future, the city through its public art program, would be involved with self-taught art to the extent that is demonstrated in this exhibit.

In November, 1998, the city's commitment to self-taught artists again expanded with the opening of The Mennello Museum of American Folk Art. The creation of the Museum resulted from the gift of Earl Cunningham paintings to the city by Michael and Marilyn Mennello of Winter Park. Today Cunningham's works form the core of the Museums collections.

Considered to be one of the most outstanding self-taught painters of the 20th Century, Cunningham produced a large body of work while living in St. Augustine. Discovered by Marilyn, she and Michael have made sure that his works will provide artistic enjoyment for future generations.

In the fall of 2004, the decision was made to further enhance the Museum by altering the name and broadening the range of exhibit and collection possibilities.

Now known as The Mennello Museum of American Art works of art created by both the self-taught and the trained artists will be exhibited to the Central Florida community.

*Frank Holt*  
Executive Director

### The Mennello Museum of American Art

900 East Princeton Street  
Orlando, Florida 32803  
Telephone: 407.246.4278  
FAX: 407.246.4329  
*Art in the Chambers*

**Hours:** Tuesday – Saturday: 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,  
Sunday: Noon – 4:30 p.m.

*Closed Mondays and major holidays*

The Mennello Museum of American Art is owned and operated by the City of Orlando.

This is a program of the Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Office. Selections from the *Mennello Museum of American Folk Art* adds to the previous exhibitions such as *The Deepest Florida: Econlockhatchee and St. Johns Rivers Panoramic Photographs* by Steve Vaughn, *Works of Leon Theodore* from The Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts, and other exhibitions from the Orlando Museum of Art, the Cornell Museum of Fine Art, and the Maitland Art Center, along with exhibitions of the works of Dorothy Gillespie, Qurentia Throm and Cicero Greathouse, and Steve Lotz which have been featured previously. The *Art in the Chambers* program presents some of Central Florida's prominent collections, and exhibitions of the work of well-known artists who live or work in Orange County.

The Public Art Review Committee makes exhibition selections through an annual review process. More information is available from the Arts & Cultural Affairs Office.

Mayor Richard T. Crotty and the Board of county commissioners established the Arts & Cultural Affairs Office in 2001. The Office's mission is to elevate Central Florida's arts and culture to a status befitting a world-class community. The office works with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council to fund arts projects in the community from a percentage of the Tourist Development Tax revenues. For more information check the website, <http://ocfl.nets/arts> or call Terry Olson at 407-836-5540 or email at [Terry.Olson@ocfl.net](mailto:Terry.Olson@ocfl.net).

#### Public Art Review Committee:

Judy Ann Albertson, Chair; Que Throm, Vice Chair;  
Arthur Blumenthal; Carolyn Fennell; Susie Findell;  
Anne Grey; Robert Higgins; Michael Houston;  
Marena Grant Morrisey; John Warbington; Paul Wenzel

#### Please be sure to join us at the next exhibition:

May 18 2006 - September 15, 2006

Selections from  
Jeanne Schubert



*A*RT IN THE CHAMBERS

Orange County Administration Center  
201 S. Rosalind Avenue  
Orlando

FROM THE MENNELLO MUSEUM  
OF AMERICAN ART: TREASURES  
FROM THE COLLECTIONS

JANUARY 19, 2006 – MAY 12, 2006

**Archie Byron (b. 1928)**

*Atlanta, Georgia*

**Rapper Man, (1994)**

*Sawdust and glue on board*

Working with sawdust and glue, Archie works on flat pieces of paneling building and molding the three-dimensional surface. Once dry, the image is then painted with an air gun.



**Jerry Coker (b.1938)**

*Gainesville, Florida*



**Clara**

*Tin on wood*

**Domino Bill**

*Tin on wood*

The artist is best known for his 'identity' masks. These fully developed portraits are based upon either his imagination or from people that he has known.



**Earl Cunningham (1897-1977)**

*St. Augustine, Florida*



**The Hoo, ca. 1960**

*Oil on Masonite*

Gift of Marilyn L. and Michael A. Mennello

**Reflections, ca. 1945**

*Oil on Masonite*

Gift of Marilyn L. and Michael A. Mennello



The paintings by this Florida artist form the core of the collection of The Mennello Museum of American Art. His work is considered to be some of the very best painting created by a self-taught American artist during the 20th century.

**Ed 'Mr. Eddy' Mumma (1908 – 1986)**

*Gainesville, Florida*

**Untitled, n.d.**

*Paint on panel*



These paintings are good examples of the artist's large body of work. The 3/4 quarter length bust of a round, faced man with large, staring eyes was his favorite subject.



**John Gerdes (1913 – 2002)**

*Maitland, Florida*

**Kaleidoscope #1, n.d.**

*Mixed media on Masonite*

Gift of Marilyn L. and Michael A. Mennello  
His tromp l'oeil paintings are masterpieces in the display of countless variety of faux wood.



**Alyne Harris (b. 1943)**

*Gainesville, Florida*

**Untitled (Church) n.d.**

*Acrylic on canvas*

This artist possesses a natural ability to make the subject of her paintings abstract. By using bold colors and patterns, she creates a spatial relationship that is unique in the vernacular school of painting.



**Devil with Angels in Teeth, n.d.**

*Acrylic on board*

This highly colored painting is a favorite subject for the artist. She has a very strong belief system that focuses on the imagery of good versus evil.

**Benjamin "B. F." Perkins (1904 – 1993)**

*Vernon, Alabama*

**Cherokee Love Birds Flag, 1992**

*Paint on board*

Reverend Perkins used brightly colored patriotic images, sometimes with a message or short sermon included. The "Love Birds" was one of his signature designs.



**Mary Proctor (b. 1960)**

*Tallahassee, Florida*

**The Heavenly Choir in Gold, n.d.**

*Mixed media on door panel*

While the artist was grieving for the loss of three family members that had perished in a house fire, she received a vision instructing her to "paint the doors".

Following the directive she was able to achieve piece and to also use her art as a teaching message for salvation.



**Jimmy Lee Sudduth (b. 1910)**

*Fayette, Alabama*

**Mule Cart, n.d.**

*"Sweet mud on board"*

This image of a farm scene was created using the "sweet mud", a combination of dirt and sugar mixed with water. The artist is very prolific and has a very large following. Most of his scenes deal with subjects that are very familiar to him.



**Mary T. Smith (1904 – 1995)**

*Brookhaven, Mississippi*

**Untitled, n.d.**

*Paint on board*



This painting was at one time part of the fence surrounding Mary's front yard. As she either sold or gave away sections of the fence they were replaced by new panels. This face within a frame was probably influenced by her fascination with early television talk shows.

**Purvis Young (b. 1943)**

*Miami, Florida*

**Heads Above the Street, 1991**

*Mixed media*

Young is one of the best known and most sought after vernacular artists in Florida and perhaps, the United States.

He creates his works from found objects. Many of his paintings deal with the daily life found in the African-American community of Over-Town. In this painting the floating heads represent the presence of angels that watch over the children. They give hope and encouragement in the world of poverty and the hardship endured by many of the residents.



**Kurt Zimmerman (b.1927)**

*Cocoa, Florida*

**Armadillo, 1998**

*Acrylic on paper with artist painted frame*

Kurt's paintings reflect his direct expressions of entities that contact him from other dimensions. The colors and the sometimes violent brushstrokes give the animal forms a real sense of life and vitality.





THE MENNELLO MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART:  
TREASURES FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTIONS