



You Are Invited To The  
OPENING RECEPTION  
of  
SERMONS IN PAINT  
The Work of Howard Finster  
Wednesday, October 31, 1984  
7:30 — 10:00 P. M.  
Marsh Gallery and Keller Hall  
University of Richmond

Howard Finster is a visionary Appalachian preacher, artist, poet and writer, storyteller and banjo-picker, improvisational lyric-maker and cosmic sojourner, coming from a background of economic privation and fundamentalist religions in rural Georgia, where he repaired bicycles and told fortunes and pastored churches. He is a plowboy with a sixth-grade education who heard and responded to the Call to the pulpit at age 15, and later had visions he could not keep discreetly within, though his wife, Pauline, feared he would be considered "crazy" by his peers. And he was, until his 1983 performance on the Johnny Carson show rendered him a "personality" in the eyes of his Summerville, Georgia community. His is a world not often acknowledged by the region of High Art, but because everything he offers can be taken to heart and applied to individual lives, he has exhibited in some 56 major shows throughout the country, was the recipient of an NEA grant in 1982 and was one of a select few to represent America at the 1984 Venice Biennale. His materials are the raw, recycled detritus of America, and he will just as readily spell out the Gospel in cat's eye marbles, as in conventional lettering. His Paradise Garden is a spiritual preserve — a labyrinth of mirrors and vines, Presidents, Pop heroes, and angels, and the faces of the living and the dead breathe together there on a donated white Cadillac. Howard is the champion of artists and art students who have been touched by his mission and who need to challenge the implied traditions by his unique strokes and bold serendipity. He is a true eccentric who restores America to its original pioneer vision, only this time it's in outer space.

*by Susan Hankla  
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Related Event: American Folk Art Today: The Collection of Barry M. Cohen  
Meadow Farm Museum, Henrico County, Richmond, VA, October 7 — December 9, 1984



31-November 20

# SERMONS

## IN PAINT

FOLK ART