

On Halloween, October 31, 1984, the University of Richmond will open an exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and memorabilia by the Reverend Howard Finster, Sermons in Paint, at the Marsh Gallery at 7:30 P.M. Concurrent festivities are scheduled from October 31-November 2, when the artist will be in Richmond. (See enclosed schedule of events). An exciting profile of the 67-year-old artist can be gleaned from the six diverse essays and articles in the exhibition catalogue which will be on sale at the Festival for \$5.00 and by mail for \$10.00. Cover art and a narrative poem by the artist are included in this document. The Howard Finster Folk Art Festival is made possible by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. For more information contact: Ann Oppenheimer, Dept. of Art, UR, VA 23173, phone: 285-6246.

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HOWARD THE STRANGER

"I HAD A DREAM OF A NEW INVENTION OF PAINTING PICTURES RIGHT UP IN THE THIN AIR I WAS PAINTING UP A BOUT 4 FEET HIGH IN THE CLEAR AIR AND THE SEENS WERE STAYING RIGHT WHERE I PUT THEM..." (from a "Thought Card" by Howard Finster)

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 its in outer space.

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Howard Finster Folk Art Festival

University of Richmond, October 31 - November 3, 1984

Funded by a grant from the Virginia Foundation
for the Humanities and Public Policy:

Exhibition:

SERMONS IN PAINT, October 31 - November 20, 1984,
University of Richmond, Marsh Gallery

October 31 - November 1; 10-12 A.M., 2-4 P.M.:
Howard Finster will lead workshops in which the
participants will cut out and paint plywood figures of
Howard's well-known heroes.

October 31, 7:30 P.M., Keller Hall:
A musical performance with the East Virginia
Toadsuckers, Finster on banjo.

November 1, 7:30 P.M., 1708 Gallery 1708 East Main St.:
Finster reads his poetry and fiction.

November 2, 2:30 P.M., Keller Hall:
Jane Livingston, Curator of the Corcoran Gallery,
Washington, will speak on the relationship of
contemporary art to folk art.

November 2, 8 P.M., Keller Hall:
Panel discussions with Robert Bishop, Director of the
Museum of American Folk Art, New York; Alan Jabbour,
Director of the American Folklife Center, The Library
of Congress; and Howard Finster.

The public is invited to all programs, which are free.



Howard Finster, Summerville, Georgia
Photograph by Clair Frederick



"The Dog Heaven" by Howard Finster

Photograph by Thomas Daniel

The Following Is Entirely Funded By The Virginia Foundation For The Humanities:

SERMONS IN PAINT: A HOWARD FINSTER FOLK ART FESTIVAL

October 31 - November 21, 1984

Marsh Gallery

University of Richmond

Richmond, Va.



An exhibition of over 40 of Howard Finster's paintings, sculptures, and constructions will be on view at the University of Richmond during the month of November. The exhibition will emphasize Finster's writing, music-making and video performances. Robert Bishop, Alan Jabbour, Jane Livingston and Howard Finster will be featured in a symposium on November 2. A catalogue including articles, essays and photographs, with cover and original stories by the artist, is available from the Department of Art, University of Richmond, 23173 for \$10.00.

HOWARD FINSTER FOLK ART FESTIVAL SCHEDULE:

Wednesday October 31, 1984

Modlin Fine Arts Building, University of Richmond
(painting studio)

Howard's workshop with plywood cut-outs

2-4 P.M.

7:30 P.M.: Exhibition opening: "Sermons in Paint"
and musical performance with the East Virginia
Toadsuckers, costume party.

Keller Hall reception room

and Marsh Gallery at the Fine Arts Building, UR

Thursday November 1, 1984

Modlin Fine Arts Building, University of Richmond
(painting studio)

Howard's plywood cut-outs workshop continues

10-12 AM

2-4 PM

7:30 P.M.: 1708 East Main Gallery (1708 East Main St, Richmond)
Howard reads from original works
reception afterwards.

Friday November 2, 1984

2:30 P.M.: Jane Livingston gives talk on "The Relationship
Between Contemporary Art and Folk Art"

Modlin Fine Arts Building, Camp Theatre

8 P.M.: speakers Alan Jabbour and Robert Bishop
Modlin Fine Arts Building, Camp Theatre