

# JJ Cromer

Born 1967, Princeton, West Virginia. Lives and works in Pound, Virginia.

## EDUCATION

- 1996 M.L.I.S, Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi
- 1994 M.A. English, Western Kentucky University
- 1990 B. A. History, University of Wyoming

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Appalachian Dream Mechanics: Twenty Years of Art by JJ Cromer*, Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
- 2010 *JJ Cromer: A Study of Passing Events*, The Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA
- 2009 *Fill: A Failure of Imagination: New Work by JJ Cromer*, Ellen Von Dehsen Elmes Gallery, Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands, VA; The Booth Center Gallery, Appalachian School of Law, Grundy, VA
- 2008 *Our Stampedes are Compatible: A Selection of Works by JJ Cromer*, Staniar Gallery, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA
- 2006 District Fine Arts, Washington, DC  
Nelson Fine Arts, Lexington, VA
- 2003 Grey Carter-Objects of Art, McLean, VA
- 2001 Appalshop Art Center, Whitesburg, KY  
Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands, VA
- 2000 Lonesome Pine Regional Library, Wise, VA  
Tulgey Wood Gallery, Wytheville, VA
- 1999 Brainerd Gallery, Bluefield, WV

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

- 2023 *BOP! Adventures in Collage*, curated by Ray Borchers and Paloma Trecka, The Dime (T.F. Projects), Chicago, IL
- 2022 *unSEEN: The Unpredictable Forms of Drawing*, curated by Brian Novatny, Mirjana Dušić, and Ljuba Jovičević, Belgrade, Serbia
- Slight of Hand: Small Works by Contemporary Artists* (online exhibit), curated by Mepaintsme, Mepaintsme.com, USA
- DRAW – WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY DRAWING AND WHAT CAN IT ALL BE?*, curated by Tomas Vu, Brian Novatny, Stipan Tadić, and Marija Stipišić Vuković, the Museum of Fine Arts, Split, Croatia
- Visionary Virginians: The Folk Art Collection of William and Ann Oppenheimer*, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Richmond, VA
- I Walk Thru Walls* (online exhibit), curated by Mepaintsme, Mepaintsme.com, USA
- À La Racine*, curated by Stéphane Blanquet, Aix en Provence, France
- Natural Abstraction*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 *Embracing the Question: A Conversation with Eclectic Artwork*, Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

- Nexus Singularity Takeover, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
Outsider Art Fair NYC (online exhibit), American Primitive Gallery, New York, NY  
2020 *Art Brut Global -- Phase III: Here and Now* (online exhibit), Outsider Art Fair with  
American Primitive Gallery, New York, NY  
Outsider Art Fair Paris (online exhibit), with American Primitive Gallery, New York, NY  
2019 *PARENTING: An Art without a Manual*, American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD  
2018 *Self-Taught Art by Any of Its Names*, Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University,  
Johnson City, TN  
2017 *NEW HORIZONS: Self-Taught Art in the 21st Century*, Hickory Museum of Art, Hickory, NC  
*The Unusual Universe: JJ Cromer and Fabrizio Molinaro*, Copenhagen Outsider Art  
Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2016 *Ordinary Wonders* (Tam Tam: Normali Meraviglie, la Mano), Triennale Milano,  
Milan, Italy  
*1st Triennial of Self-Taught Visionary Art*, Muzej naivne i marginalne umetnosti (MNMU).  
Jagodina, Serbia  
*Welcome outsiders*, Galerie Béatrice Soulié, Paris, France  
*Contemporary Redux*, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA  
2015 *dRaw*, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
*Lands Beyond: Otherworldly Landscapes and Visionary Topographies*, Loft Gallery,  
The Bascom, Highlands, NC  
*Biological Clocks: Transience and Illusion*, American Primitive Gallery, NY, NY  
Rebecca and Joseph Meyerhoff Permanent Collection Gallery. American Visionary  
Art Museum, Baltimore, MD  
2014 *One of a Kind: Artwork from the Collection of Stephanie Smither*, Art League  
Houston, Houston, TX  
*Les Arts Buissonniers*, Musée des Arts Buissonniers, Saint-Sever-du-Moustier, France  
*The Outsiders*, Galerie Grand'Rue, Poitiers, France  
*Georgia and Beyond: Southern Self-taught Art, Past and Present*, Madison-Morgan  
Cultural Center, Madison, GA  
2013-14 *Raw Vision: 25 Years of Outsider Art*, The Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France  
2013 *Outsider Art Fair*, Paris, France  
*International Drawing Project*, Café Royal Books. Hanover Project, The University of  
Central Lancashire, Preston, UK  
*Splotch/Asterisk*, Art Enables, Washington, DC (Collaboration with Steve Loya)  
2012 *Works on Paper from the Folk Art Collection*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
*Likeness | Interpretations of Portraiture*, The Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA  
*Messages from Outsiderdom*, Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington, DC  
*Trust the Eye*, Art Enables. Washington, DC  
2011-12 *All Things Round: Galaxies, Eyeballs & Karma*, The American Visionary Art  
Museum, Baltimore, MD  
2011 *Three-Ring Circus: Highlights from the William and Ann Oppenheimer Folk Art  
Collection*, The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Farmville, VA  
*Throat Truck Show*, Throat Art, Brooklyn, NY  
*Wallpaper*, Art & Design Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain  
*New Appalachian Geographies*, UVA-Wise, Wise, VA  
*First Decade Celebration: Tenth Anniversary of the Joel and Lila Harnett Print  
Study Center*, The Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of  
Richmond, VA  
2010 *The Strange Horses Came*, Kentucky Folk Art Center, Morehead, KY  
2009 *8th Annual Invitational: Writers' Choice*, Nelson Gallery, Lexington, VA  
2008-09 *The Marriage of Art, Science & Philosophy*, The American Visionary Art Museum,

Baltimore, MD

- 2007 *Others, An Art Show*, New York, NY  
*Outsider Art: The Exceptional Brought to Light*, Falk Gallery, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA
- 2005-08 *The Intuit Show*, Intuit Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2004 *Gallery in the Woods*, Brattleboro, VT  
*Life in the South*, Lindenau-Museum, Altenburg, Germany
- 2003 *The Rhodes-Nadler Collection*, Strathmore Halls Arts Center, Bethesda, MD
- 2002 *Pittsburgh Folk and Outsider Art Show*, Pittsburgh, PA  
*Apparitions*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2001-20 *Outsider Art Fair*, New York, NY  
*Studio Artists*, Grey Carter-Objects of Art, McLean, VA
- 2001 *Outsiders Outside*, Harbert, MI  
*Lab School Art Show*, Washington, DC

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Bonesteel, Michael. "The Children of the Asterisk," *Raw Vision*. (#115, Summer 2023).
- Bonesteel, Michael (essay). *Regional Character: JJ Cromer*. New York: American Primitive Gallery (2023).
- Décollage: JJ Cromer. Joie Panique Éditions, France (2022).
- Featured artist. *PureHoney Magazine* 120 (2022).
- Featured artist. *Otis Nebula* 17 (2022).
- Spitzer, Mark. "Food Fight," JJ Cromer. *Best of the Sucks: High-Octane Poetix from the Legendary Toad Suck Review*. MadHat Press. Cheshire, MA. 2022.
- Gomez, Edward. "For J.J. Cromer, the Art of Collage Is the Art of Surprise." *brutjournal*. (May 2022).
- Smith, Greg. "Nexus Singularity: Arne Anton's Infinite Doorway." *Antiques and The Arts Weekly* (2021).
- Blanquet, Stéphane. *La Tranchée Racine weekly* #10. Featured art (2020).
- Featured Artist. *Flock 18* (2017).
- Featured Artist. Interview. *Melt*. (2017).
- Gomez, Edward M. "From Curiosity to Institution: The Outsider Art Fair at 25." *Hyperallergic* (January 2017).
- Patterson, Tom (essay). "Untitled Structures: JJ Cromer. New York: American Primitive Gallery" (2016).
- Bravaco, Danielle. "Expressively Inspired: The Desire to Create for Two Self-Taught Artists." *Brut Force* (June 2016).
- Sellen, Betty-Carol. "J.J. Cromer." *Self-Taught, Outsider and Folk Art* (3rd ed.). Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2016. (Cover image).
- Scheller, Jörg. "Outsider Art – Sammler und Kuratoren begeistern sich immer mehr für Künstler, die ohne akademische Ausbildung und jenseits der Trends rätselhaft Bildwelten entwerfen." *Places of Spirit* (Feb/March 2016).
- Cannoni, Marta. "'Crossing the borders'. L'Outsider Art secondo J.J. Cromer." *La via più breve non è quella retta. Percorsi nell'outsider art*. Ed. by Sara Ugolini. Torino: L'Harmattan Italia, 2015. 126-36.
- Grossman, Drew. "A Journey to Live Among Art." *Savant Garde*. (June 2015).
- Allen, Margaret. "JJ Cromer." *When the Spirit Speaks: Self-Taught Art of the South*. Schiffer Publishing, 2015.
- Featured Artist. *Synaptic Stimuli*. "Pause into play and never rewind." (2014).
- Featured Artist. *Picnic*. "JJ Cromer." (2014).

- Crawley, Susan. "Georgia and Beyond: Southern Self-Taught Art, Past and Present." *Folk Art Messenger*. (Spring 2014). Featured Artist.
- Toad Suck, Review 4. (2014).
- "JJ Cromer." *Raw Vision: 25 Ans D'Art Brut*. Ed. Martine Lusardy and John Maizels. Paris: Halle Saint Pierre, 2013. 74-77.
- Featured Artist. *Paperbag 6* (2013).
- "Beautiful Work by Appalachian Artist JJ Cromer." *Lost at E Minor*. (November 2013).
- Simpson, Pam. "John James Cromer (JJ)" *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Ed. Carol Crown and Cheryl Rivers. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2013. 251-52.
- Cover Artist. *West Branch 73*. Bucknell University (2013).
- Featured Artist. *Mini-Interview. Museum*. (May 2013).
- Featured Artist. *Dialogist 1.2*. (May 2013).
- "Illustrations by JJ Cromer." *Juxtapoz online*. (April 2013).
- Jacobsohn, Andy. "Outsider Art Fair: 10 Artists to Buy Now." *The Daily Beast*. (February 2013).
- Laster, Paul. "10 Contemporary Outsider Artists Everyone Should Know." *Flavorwire*. (February 2013).
- Featured Artist. *Thumbnail Magazine 4*. (2013).
- Featured Artist. *Box of Jars 3*. (2012).
- "Five Pieces by JJ Cromer" and "Notes on the Asterisk." *Knee-Jerk Magazine*. (2012).
- "JJ Cromer." *The 22 Magazine 3*. (2012).
- Featured Artist. *Diagram 12.4*. (2012).
- Featured Artist. *deComp: a literary magazine*. (April 2012).
- Featured Artist. *491 Magazine 5*. (2012).
- "Artist Spotlight: Interview with JJ Cromer." *Art Nectar*. (December 2011).
- Featured artist. *Fiction Fix 10*. (Fall 2011).
- Three Ring Circus: Highlights from the William and Ann Oppenheimer Folk Art Collection*. The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (2011).
- "5 Questions = Sixty Answers." *Bones Magazine #5 (The Crime Issue)*. (April 2011).
- Zimmerman Campbell, Cara. "Visual Vocabularies of JJ Cromer." *Raw Vision*. (#70, Fall 2010).
- Stanley, Caroline. "Paul Laster: A Night at New York's Outsider Art Fair." *Flavorwire*. (Jan. 9, 2009).
- Gunts, Edward. "Visionary Arts Museum Returns to Its Inspired Roots." *The Baltimore Sun*. (October 5, 2008).
- Lieber, Katherine R. "ArtScope.net: Your Guide to Art Chicago & ARTROPOLIS Art Fairs 2008." <http://www.artscope.net>. (May 2008).
- McKee, Lauren. "Artwork by: JJ Cromer." "Outsider Art Fair." (Issue 76, 2008).
- St. John Erickson, Mark. "Accidental Visionaries." *Daily Press*. *Newport News*. (November 18, 2007).
- Thompson, Roger. "Moved to Create." *The Outsider 12*, (Spring 2007).
- Patterson, Tom. "Entering the Mainstream." *Winston-Salem Journal*. (February 4, 2007).
- Ayers, Robert and Jacquelyn Lewis. "Fair Report: The Outsider Art Fair." <http://www.artinfo.com>. (January 29, 2007).
- DiGusta, Linda. "Come in From the Cold and Go Outside." (January 24, 2007).
- "Feature: Outsider Art Fair." [www.artkrush.com](http://www.artkrush.com). (Issue 24, 2006).
- Anderson, Brooke Davis et al. *Lindenau-Museum Altenburg. Life in the South: Self-Taught Artists from the Huffman Collection* (2004).

## REPRESENTATION

American Primitive Gallery, New York, NY  
Grey Carter – Objects of Art, McLean, VA

Henry Boxer, Surrey, England  
Copenhagen Outsider Art Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

**PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

The American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY  
The American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, MD  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL  
The Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA  
Longwood University, Farmville, VA  
The University of Richmond, Richmond, VA