# Unit 11: Out of the System

### Artworks Outside of the White Box:

## Unit Student Learning Objectives

### Unit X: Out of the System (one week)

At the end of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Identify artists and describe qualities associated with working outside of the gallery system. (Course Goals: 1,2,4,5, GE: 1,4,6,7, Core skills: A, D, E)
2. Define key terms associated with these movements and artists (Course Goals: 1,2,4 GE: 1,4,6,7, core skills: A, D, E)
3. Question the theory and philosophy behind the movement, and examine its influence on the main stream art world. (Course Goals: 2,3,4,5,6 GE: 1,4,6,7,9 core skills: A, B, C, E, F, G)

### Artists covered:

#### Outsider Artists

* Henry Darger
* Daniel Johnston
* Rammellzee

### Outsider Architects

* Friedensreich Hundertwasser
* Heidelberg Project

#### Comix

* Scott Mccloud
* Robert Crumb
* Art Spiegelman
* Jim Woodring
* Chris Ware

#### Graffiti

* Margaret Kilgallen
* Barry McGee
* Bansky
* Neck Face

## Unit Student Assessments & Activities

### Introduction (ULO 3-4)

This week we look at the art world that exists outside of the gallery and museum structure. The three avenues we will explore are: Outsider Artists, Comix, and Graffiti. Often these art realms aren't completely excluded from the gallery system the artists we will look at have also gotten a lot of gallery attention, and these artistic styles have greatly influenced artists working within the gallery system. Still, they are places where art exists often in fresh relief from the trends and pretensions of the main stream art world.

#### Outsider Artists

"Outsider art" is a term that is often used to describe artists who came to the arts outside of the usual channels of art school or training. It's a term that is thrown around a lot, and sometimes artists with a solid academic background often capitalize on appearing to come from an outsider position. Of all the artists this week, the one that could 100% be considered an outsider is **Henry Darger**. He lived as a janitor in almost complete isolation in Chicago, and only on his death did anyone realize he had been making artworks at night. I've linked to a full length movie on him in the video section, but you don't have to watch the whole thing -- you can get a good idea of his life and work in the first ten of fifteen minutes.

Outsider artists are often accompanied by a reputation for mental instability. Of course this is often a accusation towards artists in general, but if you think about the Myth of Vincent Van Gogh, this is the stereotype often enforced by outsider artists. This is certainly the case with **Daniel Johnston**, who is equally well known in the music world as he is in the visual arts. I've linked to a trailer for the movie "The Devil and Daniel Johnston", a fascinating movie that's available on Netflix for those of you who are interested.

I've included two artists in here under the term "Outsider Architects" for lack of a better title -- Austrian environmental activist, artists, and architect **Hundertwasser**, and Detroit native Tyree Guyton and his **Heidelberg Project**. We also will look briefly at the life and work of **Rammelzee**, an artist who was equally at home in the art, music and graffiti worlds of 1980's New York.

#### Comix

Comix, with an 'x' is a way to distinguish the small press or self published realm of underground comix from main stream action hero comics put out by large companies like Marvel or DC Comics. Starting in the late 60's, a scene of artists influenced by comic culture emerged, putting out experimental comics, often dealing with adult themes or a wry blend of humor and pornography. As these projects became more ambitious, the graphic novel was born -- the novel length extension of the comic. One artist I want to introduce you to is **Scott Mccloud**, as much a comic historian as an artist himself. If we had more time to devote to this unit, I would have you all read [Understanding Comics](http://scottmccloud.com/2-print/1-uc/index.html), his illustrated book on understanding the visual communication inherent to all comics. I will introduce you to two of the forefathers of the contemporary comix scene: **Robert Crumb** and **Art Spiegelman**. And we will also open a window into the world of many more comix authors: Ron Rege, Jim Woodring, Chris Ware, and Marjane Satrapi. Comix by nature translate very well into animation and film, and so many of the examples we will examine will be animations based on the work of these artists.

#### Graffiti

Finally we will take a quick look at graffiti, from the West Coast artists **Margaret Kilgallen**, **Barry McGee**, and miscreant **Neck Face**, to British artist **Bansky**.

The readings this week I've chosen to fill in two big gaps in this unit. The first is the lack of women in the section of Comix. I'm happy to be able to add Marjane Satrapi this year, who's graphic novel *Persephone* has proven hugely popular and spawned an animated major motion picture. But often justifiably, comics are criticized as a male dominated art that frequently objectifies women. Less we go straight back to the sexism of the AbExers, I've included a short article outlining some women in the field.

Secondly, with the exception of Ramelzee, our graffiti artists are all white, in contrast to grafitti's roots in the latino and African American youth cultures. Our second article is a British history students paper outlining the history of graffiti.

### **Readings**: (ULO 3, 4)

### Pamela Dennant "Urban Expression, Urban Assault, Urban Wildstyle, New York City Graffiti"

[from Hip Hop Network](http://www.hiphop-network.com/articles/graffitiarticles/emergenceofnycitygraffiti.asp)

#### Women in comics and the tricky art of equality

[Fom the LA times Hero Complex](http://herocomplex.latimes.com/2012/07/21/women-in-comics-you-cant-keep-a-good-creator-down/#/0)

### Presentations: Artist Videos (ULO 1-4)

#### Beginnings of Pop Art:

Please watch the following videos:

### Henry Darger

### The Devil and Daniel Johnston trailer

This is the trailer only, for full movie, go to:

### Daniel Johnston at Home

### Rammellzee

### Hundertwasser

[Hundertwasser website](http://www.hundertwasser.at/index_en.php)

### Heidelberg Project

The new Discovery Channel show "Motor City Motors" created a Heidelberg-inspired car last year and took it for a test drive in October [YouTube copy]

### Heidelberg Project

[Heidelberg Website](http://www.heidelberg.org/)

### Barry Mcgee & Margaret Kilgallen

### Margaret Kilgallen

### Banksy

### Neckface

*(Warning: explicit language)*

### Scott McCloud, comic historian

### Art Spiegelman

### Robert Crumb

### Chris Ware

### Ron Rege

More of the Art of [Ron Rege](http://whatthingsdo.com/authors/ron-rege-jr/)

### Jim Woodring "Lobster and the Liver" trailer

### "Visions of Frank" Japanese animation based on the work of Jim Woodring

### Marjane Satrapi author of Persepolis

### Interactive activities: artwork identification, and terminology (multiple chances, self assess)(ULO 1, 2)

#### Identify names of XXX Artists

Q: Select all the artists who are Outsider Artists A. Henry Darger B. Daniel Johnston C. Rammellzee D. Friedensreich Hundertwasser E. Tyree Guyton (Heidelberg Project) F. Arshile Gorky G. Chuck Close H. Xu Bing ANSWER: A,B,C,D,E POINTS: 5 TYPE: MS

Q: Select all the comix artists A. Scott Mccloud B. Robert Crumb C. Art Spiegelman D. Jim Woodring E. Chris Ware F. Jean Michel Basquiat G. Robert Morris H. Jeff Koons ANSWER: A,B,C,D,E POINTS: 5 TYPE: MS

Q: Select all the artists who are Graffiti Artists A. Margaret Kilgallen B. Barry McGee C. Bansky D. Neck Face E. Kerry James Marshall F. Arturo Herrera G. Shadi Ghadirian H. James Turrell ANSWER: A,B,C,D,E POINTS: 5 TYPE: MS

#### Identify artwork images from the slideshows

run mulchexec.py

Q: This is an artwork by: ANSWER: A: B: C: D: POINTS: 5 TYPE: MC IMAGE: http://jonathangabel.com/images/art125/

#### Multiple Choice Definitions

Q: Define "comix" A. Limited print or small press runs of experimental comics often focusing on adult themes. B. Merging image and text into unified visual signifiers, such as Lichtenstein's "Wham!" C. Graphic publications focusing on the exploits of superheroes. D. Religious pamphlets, usually illustrated for an audience with poor reading skills. ANSWER: A POINTS: 5 TYPE: MC

Q: Define "graphic novel" A. Longer length comics presented in book form. B. A sexually explicit genre of novel like "Anna Karenina" or "Lolita" C. Gallery shows of narrative work that extends through the entire exhibition. D. Graffiti pieces spanning multiple train cars. ANSWER: A POINTS: 5 TYPE: MC

Q: Define "Throw-Ups" A. Large quick graffiti tags, usually done with bubble letters and 2 colors. B. Stencil graffiti attached to a wall and quickly sprayed. C. Large, nauseating, billboard sized artworks meant to offend. D. Wheat-pasted temporary artworks on public buildings. ANSWER: A POINTS: 5 TYPE: MC

Q: What is a "fat cap"? A. Large diameter spray can nozzles used by graffiti artists to quickly spray large areas of color. B. A high rolling artists who makes big expensive artworks that sell for large amounts. C. The blunt-end marker used by comic artists to fill in background blacks. D. The onion domes used by architect Hundertwasser to cap off his towers. ANSWER: A POINTS: 5 TYPE: MC

Q: What is an "outsider artist"? A. An artist with unique personal vision without formal training or who works outside of the artistic establishment. B. An art movement of the 60's and 70's focusing on large scale environmental artworks. C. Artists who's moral depravity or psychological state cause them to be excluded from the art world. D. An artists who only becomes famous after they have died. ANSWER: A POINTS: 5 TYPE: MC

### Discussion Board Question relating to slideshows and readings (ULO 1-4)

Now that you have become familiar with the artists and concepts presented in this unit, it is time to start making connections. Here is your chance to apply what you learned in the readings to some of the artwork you have seen.

**First**, you will start a thread by answering the Essay question below.

**Then** you will reply to at least two (2) other students posts to get the discussion going.

Please make sure you meet the **due dates** for these posts.

#### Essay Question:

*This response follows the same format as unit 8.*

**First:**

Pick one of the artists from this unit (either one that was featured, mentioned in the readings or extra artists list, or one who you believe would fit into this unit) and do a little research on your own. Find another interview, blog entry, images of artworks, video or the like on line.

**Then:**

Write a quick summary of what you found and why you liked it. INCLUDE A LINK IN YOUR RESPONSE, so we can also see what it is you found. (To add a link, highlight the word or words you want to make a link, then click on the globe/chainlink image. Copy and paste the web address into the popup window in the field lables URL).

**Responses:**

For your two responses due Sunday, follow your classmates links and review the material they presented. Then add your own response to the material.

### Additional Artists to Study (ULO 1)

*You will not be tested on the following material, but if you are interested in studying further anything we discussed this week, these artists could also fit into this category*

* Mark Beyer
* Mary Fleener
* Ron Rege
* Goseki Kojima
* Elizabeth Murray
* Matt Leines
* Taylor Mckimens
* Raymond Pettibon
* Chris Johanson
* Daniel Clowes

### Optional links for further self-study (ULO 1-4)

*You will not be tested on the following material, but if you are interested in studying further anything we discussed this week, these links are a good place to start:*

* Reemergence of [Rammellzee](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/26/arts/design/rammellzees-work-and-reputation-re-emerge.html)
* [Marc Bell](http://www.adambaumgoldgallery.com/Bell_Marc/BellExhibTitle.htm)
* [Comics for Feminists](http://feministphilosophers.wordpress.com/2012/07/17/comics-for-feminists/)
* [Heroine](http://feministphilosophers.wordpress.com/2012/07/17/comics-for-feminists/)
* [fat cap](http://www.fatcap.com/)