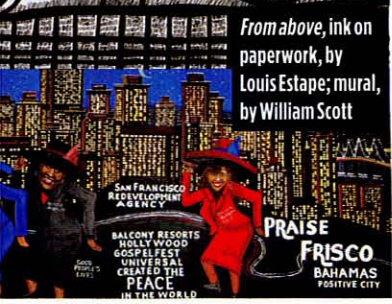


The Museum of Everything's founder, James Brett



From above, ink on paperwork, by Louis Estape; mural, by William Scott



Left to right, purses and T-shirts created by artists at the Creative Growth Art Center, for Marc by Marc Jacobs

Above, Henry Darger's illustrated frieze. Right, Sam Doyle's American footballer

# The outsiders

The weird and wonderful world of Unintentional Art. By Harriet Quick

**T**ucked away behind Regent's Park, housed in a former dairy and one-time recording studio, is a new gem of an art space called, simply, The Museum of Everything. Everything, in this case, refers to what founder James Brett calls "Unintentional Art" – that is, art created for passion and personal exploration, rather than as a professional pursuit. The art is weird, wonderful and, frequently, mind-bogglingly bonkers.

Brett, a British film-maker, has been collecting Unintentional Art for the best part of a decade, and his collection, along with others, will make up the space. "This art is visceral and detached from the mainstream. I think it has great appeal, now that the formal art market is so commodified," says Brett, who has invited artists to curate pieces from his collection and add their own finds. Ed Ruscha, Paul Noble, Annie Morris, Idris Khan, Jarvis Cocker and others have keenly undertaken the mission.

There is much for them to choose from, including a giant emu-like sculpture made of tightly wound wool, by American artist Judith Scott, whose work emerged from the Creative Growth Art Center in California. Brett explains, "Scott's work has a strong artistic appeal. Born deaf and with Down's syndrome, she had been

visiting the centre for several years before she found her unique creative expression."

Above Brett's mantelpiece hangs a metal panel of an American footballer, by Sam Doyle. It beats with adrenaline. The artist had many fans, including Ruscha, who will be contributing to the opening show. Another work comprises hundreds of figures, clad in recycled materials, created by Nek Chand as a rock garden in Chandigarh, India. "The statues were built in secret, until they were found by the authorities," says Brett – Antony Gormley's terracotta army of the subcontinent, if you like.

"Fascination in this genre of art has existed for a long time," Brett says. "Surrealist and Fauvist painters were particularly inspired by it – Jean Dubuffet, who coined the term Art Brut [often referred to as Outsider Art], Picasso and Max Ernst. But it is only in the last decade that there has been another groundswell of interest." One of Brett's favourite pieces is a series of watercolour illustrations, by Henry Darger. "Darger is the great unsung hero of the last century," says Brett. The Museum of Everything will be a magnet, no doubt, for weird and wonderful people, as well as art. ■

*The Museum of Everything, on the corner of Regent's Park and Sharpleshall Street, NW1 (Musevery.com), opens on October 14*

## ART ROUND-UP

And emerging artists get their own dedicated area at **Frame**. From October 15 to 18; [Friezeartfair.com](http://Friezeartfair.com) ● **Fräulein**, an exhibition from fashion photographer Ellen von Unwerth, celebrates female sensuality via Kate Moss, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy and Claudia Schiffer. From October 12 to November 15; [Michaelhoppengallery.com](http://Michaelhoppengallery.com) ● At the Whitechapel Gallery, eminent artist **Sophie Calle** has her first British retrospective. The French antecedent to Tracey Emin, Calle toys with the boundaries between private and public life. From October 16 to January 3; [Whitechapelgallery.org](http://Whitechapelgallery.org) ● Art photographer Boo Ritson – known for coating her subjects in a generous slick of paint before photographing them – shoots characters in a series of simulated Americana mise en scènes in **Back-Roads Journeys**. From October 13 to November 21; [Alancrestea.com](http://Alancrestea.com) ● There's more historical re-enactment in **Young Masters**, where familiar Old Master paintings are re-imagined by contemporary artists in photography, sculpture, installation and painting, at Sphinx Fine Art and the Old Truman Brewery. Until November 4; [Young-masters.co.uk](http://Young-masters.co.uk). AF