

JOSÉ MANUEL EGEA

A

LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

WHEN THE MUSEUM OF EVERYTHING LANDED IN LONDON'S AFFLUENT PRIMROSE HILL IN 2009, IT STUCK OUT LIKE A SPACESHIP. WITH A HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY COLLECTION OF WORK BY SELF-TAUGHT ARTISTS, THE POP-UP EXHIBITION STOLE MANY HEARTS. THIS SEPTEMBER, THE MUSEUM WILL REPLICATE THE STUDIOS OF SELF-TAUGHT ARTISTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES IN THE WINDOWS OF SELFRIDGES. AS FOUNDER JAMES BRETT EXPLAINS, IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS BETWEEN 'US' AND 'THEM'.

The idea for the Museum of Everything (MoE) was born when I was travelling across the USA, checking out some folk art there. I felt it had more soul than anything else in the art world and soon I was looking at all kinds of non-traditional artworks. Around that time, I met William Brett who had bought his childhood schoolhouse and filled it with a collection of objects: old records, wine bottles, bullets, army uniforms, etc. He called it the Museum of Everything. It was just the kind of non-art artwork that fascinated me, so I asked William if we could open a London branch.

We don't celebrate 'outsider art' or any other 'us' and 'them' terminology. We celebrate difference; works of creativity made for its makers, not a market. We believe this reveals creative instincts in us all and somehow reflects why we are here.

MoE is a tiny blip in the solar system of art. It may be the world's first truly democratic museum because it can be anywhere and show anything. What matters most are its artists – those under-appreciated heroes from the nooks and crannies of society. If they get a little respect, the museum has done good.

In the future, we plan to travel across Russia to look for new artists; tour the Middle East once everyone puts their guns down; place caravans around British seaside towns; host an exhibition in Manhattan; hold a tiny show under a restaurant in London; and continue on our never-ending journey to find the un-exhibited, untrained and unintentional artists in every pocket of our planet. **JAMES BRETT**

MUSEUMOFEVERYTHING.COM



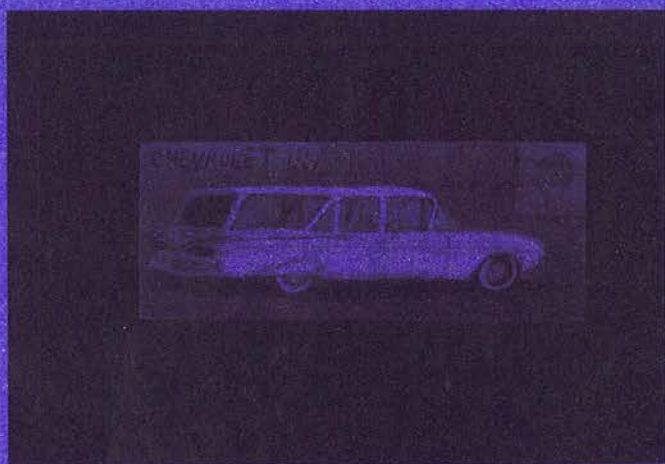
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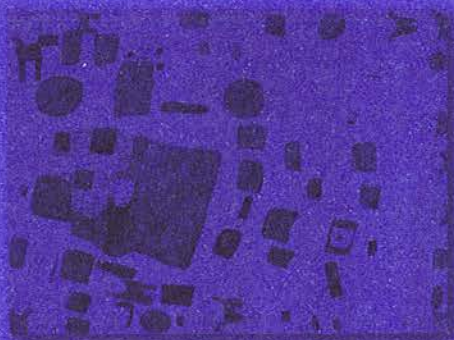
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