

SÄRLINGSKAP OCH KONSTNÄRSMYT
En text- och begreppsanalys inom den moderna konst- och kunskapsteorin

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Abstract:

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This thesis is about the discovery of Outsider Art at the turn of the 20th century. Three of the early classical texts about Outsider Art have been analysed in detail. These are Marcel Réja's *L'Art chez les Fous: La Dessin la Prose, la Poésie*, 1907. Walter Morgenthaler's *Ein Geisteskranker als Künstler: Adolf Wölfl*, 1921 and Hans Prinzhorn's *Bildnerei der Geisteskranken. Ein Beitrag zur Psychologie und Psychopathologie der Gestaltung*, 1922. The objective of the analysis is to discover which qualities these authors saw in the art of the Outsider and its relationship to the contemporary breakthrough of modernism within art, as well as the development of the modern myth of the artist during the first decades of the 20th century. There is also a chapter on Jean Dubuffet who can be seen as continuing the tradition of Réja, Morgenthaler and Prinzhorn. It is Dubuffet who both develops a theory of Art Brut/Outsider Art and personifies the myth of artistic creation that prevailed during the modern period.

The third part of the thesis is made up of several thematic sections that discuss different currents of ideas that can elucidate why Outsider Art was discovered at this moment in time. The implication of new scientific discoveries is mentioned as well as the importance of older traditions. The development of Depth Psychology, with Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung and Otto Gross as its most interesting figures, is discussed, as are the ideas about collective levels of the unconscious. In this part of the thesis the importance of the old idea about a link between madness and genius is stressed along with the equally significant interest in the primitive and its relationship to the artworld's reaction to the breakthrough of modernity.

Key words: Outsider Art, Art Brut, Creativity, Myth of the Artist, Dubuffet, Réja, Morgenthaler, Prinzhorn, Freud, Jung, Gross, *L' Art chez les Fous*, *Ein Geisteskranker als Künstler*, *Bildnerei der Geisteskranken*, Wölfl, Primitivism, Modernism, Genius, Madness, Ascona.

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