Felipe Jesus Consalvos
1891–c. 1960

A self-appointed “artist, healer, and man,” Felipe Jesus Consalvos worked for much of his life as a cigar roller, and he extrapolated the vernacular tradition of cigar band collage to a sophisticated practice. The Havana-born artist immigrated to Miami around 1920, eventually settling in New York and then Philadelphia. His obsessive body of work—over 750 surviving collages on paper, found photographs, musical instruments, furniture, and other unexpected surfaces—was discovered in 1980 at a West Philadelphia garage sale. Consalvos’ practice parallels and in some cases prefigures certain contemporaneous developments in Surrealist, Dada, and Futurist and Pop collage, and even poetry. His collages share the biting socio-political satire and absurdist impulse of Dadaists like Kurt Schwitters and Max Ernst, along with abstruse mysticism.

Solo Exhibitions

2012 Exploded Whims, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2011 Felipe Jesus Consalvos, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
2007 More Colossal Greatness, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2004 Constructing Images, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Group Exhibitions

2016 Measurably Long Kool, Fleisher/Ollman, Philadelphia, PA
The Kunsthall of Everything, Exhibition #6, Kunsthall Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2014 Enigma Rapt in Mysteries: American Art Without Epoch, Cavin-Morris, New York, NY
2013 Eugene Von Bruenchenhein, Felipe Jesus Consalvos, Paul Lee, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR
2012 Museum of Everything, Exhibition # 1.1, Chalet Society, Paris, FR
60/60, Fleisher/Ollman, Philadelphia, PA
Caribbean: Crossroads of the World, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY (Cat.)
2011 Remix: Selections from the International Collage Center, The Samek Art Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA (travelled to The Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO; Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY, Ewing Gallery of Art and Architecture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN; Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME)
Off Camera, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
The Medicine Bag, Maccarone Gallery, New York, NY (Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME)
Four Decades, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2009 About Face: A Compilation, Edward Thorp Gallery, New York, NY
The Museum of Everything, Exhibition #1, Primrose Hill, London, UK (travelled to Pinacoteca Agnelli, Turin, IT)

Messages and Magic: 100 Years of Collage and Assemblage in American Art, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI

Collage, Russell Bowman Art Advisory, Chicago, IL

Parallel Visions II, Galerie St. Etienne, New York, NY

Rock Paper Scissors: American Collage Now, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

The American Antiques Show, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, New York, NY

The American Antiques Show, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, New York, NY

Words in Pictures, Adam Baumgold Gallery, New York, NY

Fabulous Histories: Indigenous Anomalies in American Art, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The American Antiques Show, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, New York, NY

Bibliography

2017  "Frieze New York 2017 Expands Scope." NYArts Magazine (May 9, 2017) [online]


Boucher, Brian. "12 Great Affordable Artworks at the 2017 Outsider Art Fair." Artnet News (January 20, 2017) [online]

2016  Wilson, Michael. "Scene & Herd: Quiet Riot." artforum.com (January 24, 2016) [online]

Cascone, Sarah. "Unexpected Artworks Dominate This Year’s Outsider Art Fair." Artnet News (January 22, 2016) [online]

Johnson, Ken. "At the Outsider Art Fair, the Creative Impulse Is in Its Raw Glory." The New York Times (January 21, 2016) [ill.]


Steinhauer, Jillian. "Exploring an Expanded Field at the Outsider Art Fair." Hyperallergic (January 30, 2015) [online]

2013  "De la déconstruction : Pauline Bastard à la Foire YIA (et quelques autres)." Le Monde blogs: Amour d’art (October 27, 2013) [online]


Sozanski, Edward J. "Cigar Bands, in His Hands, Became Art." The Philadelphia Inquirer (November 5, 2004): 32

Collections

John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
American Folk Art Museum, New York, NY
Harvard Art Museums, Boston, MA
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
The Museum of Everything, London, UK