

Muffler Men (Folk Art and Artists Series)

By Timothy Corrigan Correll, Patrick Arthur Polk

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Art can appear in the most unexpected places. Muffler men, for example, have become one of the most striking and remarkable of recent folk art creations. From Walla Walla to Daytona, quirky mannikins constructed from discarded automobile mufflers are popping up across America. Cobbled together as business signposts, these comical sculptures are sprouting outside automotive repair shops everywhere.

Car debris harmonizes with human anatomy as rusty cast-offs assume a new identity as savvy *objets d?art*. Signage turns into art as mechanics fashion cowboys, dogs, robots, space aliens, and a host of other creatures from metal scraps of the profession and with the aid of their workaday tools and acetylene.

If for only a passing moment, the muffler men enliven the roadside and help to break up the monotony of daily commutes. More than mere advertisements, they interact with their communities by greeting the passerby. The significance of muffler sculptures turns profound when they become local celebrities and are hailed as community landmarks.

But, what do they mean? For the creative mechanic who made them, they are exclamatory signposts and store mascots. For the academic folklorists who analyze them, they are symbolic icons with cultural meanings that proclaim individual identity and group membership. For the collectors who treasure them, they are exemplars of ?outsider art.? For most non-specialists who wave as they speed past, they are funky delights.

This colorful book documents the widespread appeal of muffler men as a form of occupational art that enriches the workplace, the local environment, and now the art gallery.

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Editorial Review

Review

?Muffler men are the cigar-store Indians of the late twentieth century, trade figures made to stand in front of shops to advertise what is sold inside. Both are considered forms of folk art, but the skinny metal figures with shimmering muffler heads and torsos and pipe-thin legs found outside auto repair shops are wittier, more imaginative, and flamboyantly painted. . . .?

?Rita Reif, *The New York Times*

From the Inside Flap
How creations welded from the scrapheap have become a folk art rage

About the Author
Timothy Corrigan Correll is a folklorist whose research focuses on material behavior and folk belief.

Patrick Arthur Polk serves as the museum scientist and archivist for the UCLA Folklore and Mythology Archives.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Neil Turner:

Precisely why? Because this Muffler Men (Folk Art and Artists Series) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Ronald Castaneda:

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