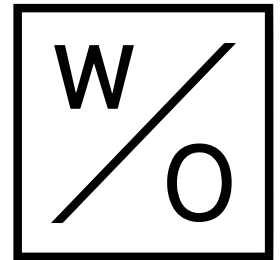
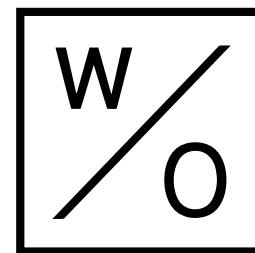


STUFFED ANIMALS



art
without
intent



art
without
intent

THE FOUND OBJECT SHOW

*An exhibition of found objects transcending
their forms through time and circumstance.*

featuring STUFFED
ANIMALS
an exhibition

MARCH 24-26, 2023

516 W 26th St | NYC

@artwithoutintent | www.artwithoutintent.com

This book features a collection of antique and vintage toy stuffed animals gathered by twenty-one art and antique dealers for a special exhibition within the 2023 Found Object Show in NYC.

Found Object exhibitors present things transformed over time as “art without intent.” Dating from the late 19th century through the 1970s, the animals within this book grew wild in ways no one planned nor predicted. Some may become invasive species of your imagination.

All of the stuffed animals depicted are available for an adoption fee. Learn more about each creature and how to contact their caretakers in the final pages of this book.



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on wild things

by Adam Irish

Stuffed animals are creatures of the imagination. They roam dimensions within ourselves.

For a time, anyway. Until creeping adulthood hunts their species to extinction.

Most of us have unlearned our natural abilities to access this imaginative realm, one which children enter at will. We adults might again, too, should we choose to open ourselves to creative perception and reconsider what kids know intuitively: that inanimate objects may have lives of their own.

As part of the 2023 Found Object Show, twenty-one art and antique dealers contributed nearly one-hundred vintage stuffed animals for an exhibition of evocative cloth creatures. If a toy stuffed animal is intended to nuzzle childish fancies, then these critters — having grown feral over decades of abandonment — lie in wait as found objects, ready to pounce upon our dormant imaginations.

“Found objects” are things which transcend their original forms and significance as the result of unexpected changes over time. Our innate sense of creative perception — that childlike, imaginative way of seeing — is particularly sensitive to found objects which have gained aesthetic and conceptual qualities similar to those experienced in conventional art. “Art without intent” emerges without artists and within our own mind’s eye.

Some of the animals in this book suffered dramatic and unforeseen physical transformations. Others remain in inexplicably perfect condition, retaining alien forms from generations past. All of them led unknowable lives in the care and imaginations of children who outgrew them, who, in turn, they outlived. With their mysteries burrowing within our minds, we may fall prey to the wildest of them as art without intent.

Kid poetry could be our best field guide to these creatures of the imagination.

In thinking about how to begin this book, I reached out to my friend Meg Leonard, a poet, to see if she and her children — Cecelia, Leo, and Jay Balthazar — would like to introduce the animals. Meg characterizes poetry as a “language that exists in liminal spaces.” As such, it could serve to guide us here in the borderlands of objecthood and make-believe. In verses playful and profound, she and her kids capture the shape-shifting nature of the stuffed animal as a found object. We, too, may wrangle inanimate wildlife with a poet’s unanswerable questions, such as those posed by five-year-old Jay Balty:

Is it a cat? It is a bat? *How do we know what something even is?*

Approached with this sense of inquisitive wonder, animals thought to be long-extinct may tread again within our mind’s eye. To that end, beware: whether homemade or manufactured, beloved or feared, timeworn or timewarped, the stuffed animals of this exhibition run wild, uncaged from their original contexts to stalk the imagination.

The Found Object Show invites you to fall prey.

Adam Irish is the organizer of the Found Object Show and an antiques dealer with a gallery in Providence, Rhode Island.

Old as Adam Antiques & Americana
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@oldasadam

Black Cat, Huggy Cat

This a cat, a catty catty cat.

Is this cat in a tree?

Is this cat in your body?

One huggy cat,

his arms are crooked.

This cat looks like a bat

instead of a cat . . .

Is it a bat? How do we know

what something even is?

- Jay Balthazar, age 5





Leo's Stuffy

I see a leopard, a leopard here—
happy, the eyes might be beads.
Maybe this child never saw a leopard,
except for his stuffy.

I've never seen a dinosaur,
but I have a dinosaur stuffy—
it's weird, kind of.

I think he loved this leopard stuffy:
spots loved off,
ears loved off.

I imagine the little boy
sleeping with his leopard,
looking at its bead face.

- *Leo, age 7*



Strange Blue Creature

what is
this?!
a blue monster
with a
pitiful
face?! or does it
symbolize
one of the
mysteries
in life . . .
either
way,
it is
loved.

- *Cecelia, age 9*

Red Dog

A poodle that I see!
Could this dog be made of fire?

It looks like a friend—
Can a friend be made of fire?

- *Jay Balthazar, age 5*



Animal

It was just for you: no adult wanted
cloth fur, button eyes—no adult cared about
a mane you could hide your whole hand in.

Soft, plush, silken: a baby's words,
no story here beyond tucked in sleep, curled
against dream breath.

Someone small loved to run the flat paw between fingers,
rhythmic fabric hummed a lullaby to nerve endings
until the thumb and forefinger stop in sleep—

Now everything is stopped.
Where does beauty live?
A cherry-red eye, a bit of linen rubbed

smooth as silk,
fur only imagined now, like paint
on Roman statues.

Whose needle threads the patch
above the animal's heart? Thumb-tailed, crooked,
we could tell a story, we could tell a story, and the story is

long grown, long dead, long stopped. Where does memory live?
The nighttime worries, the whispered bedtime prayers, these did not last.

Who tied and re-tied satin bow
around the animal's neck?

Threaded smile. Yarn hair. One single, beaded eye. These did.

- Megan Leonard, age 42

*Megan Leonard is the author of
book of lullabies (Milk & Cake
Press, 2020) and Larkspur Queen
(Nightingale and Sparrow Press,
2023). She writes and teaches
poetry in New Hampshire.*



STUFFED



ANIMALS





































































Daddy -
Lawrence Robert Little
This little lamb was
made by Mommie in
1953.























INVENTORY

*The cloth creatures depicted in this book are available for sale.
Please contact the exhibitor indicated below for more information.*

| <i>page no.</i> | <i>description</i> | <i>measurements</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|

JEFF ADELBERG

jeffadelberg@gmail.com | [@trianglish](#)

| | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 14 | Penguin, oil cloth, c. second quarter 20th century. Well-loved, with separation on neck. | 10 inches tall |
|----|--|----------------|

KOSTAS ANAGNOPOULOS

inquiry@thisispidgin.com | [@thisispidgin](#) | www.thisispidgin.com

| | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 15 | Brown bear with eaten-away fabric, wool, c. early 20th century. Timeworn. | 7 inches tall |
|----|---|---------------|

AARNE ANTON

[@aarneanton](#) | american.primitive@verizon.net | www.americanprimitive.com

| | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 7 | Furry mystery cat, homemade, c. late 19th century. Excellent condition. | 9 inches tall |
| 16 | Knitted horse, black wool with leg reinforced using a knitting needle, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 11 inches tall |
| 17 | Sleeping cat, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Well-loved. | 10 inches long |

TOM BAKER

tom@bakercoantiques.com | [@bakercoantiques](#) | www.bakercoantiques.com

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 18 | Donkey, mohair with glass eye, c. early 20th century. Timeworn. Ohio origin, Amish. One eye missing. | 4.5 inches long |
|----|--|-----------------|

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------------|
| 19 | Chicken doorstep, printed cotton, c. second quarter 20th century. Expected wear. Massachusetts origin. | 10 inches long |
| 19 | Chicken potholder, printed cotton, homemade c. early 20th century. Expected wear. New England origin. Calico fabric. | 6.5 inches long |
| 20 | Sock cat with sewn mouth, homemade, c. early 20th century. Well-loved. Pennsylvania origin, Old mend on back. | 7 inches tall |
| 21 | Mouse, repurposed ladies' sock with mother-of-pearl eyes and braided tail, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. Maine origin. | 9 inches long with tail |
| 22 | Red pig, cotton with wooden nose, c. late 19th or early 20th century. Timeworn. New England origin. All hand sewn. | 10 inches long |
| 23 | Make-do duck pincushion, embroidered cotton mounted on broken glass base, c. early 20th century. Good condition. Ohio origin. Stitched face. | 4.75 inches high |
| 24 | Elephant, velvet with leather harness on wooden wheels, c. early 20th century. Well-loved. Pennsylvania origin, Amish. | 7.5 inches long |
| 26 | Dog, velvet with ribbon bow and glass eyes, c. early 20th century. | 6 inches tall |
| 27 | Dog, light brown cotton, homemade, c. early 20th century. Well-loved. Pennsylvania origin, Amish, All hand sewn. | 5.5 inches long |
| 27 | Dog, dark brown cotton with shoe button eyes, c. early 20th century. Good condition. Pennsylvania origin, Amish. | 7.5 inches tall |

EDWARD BROGNA

ebrogna@hotmail.com | [@o.g.g.e.t.t.o](#)

| | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 28 | Kangaroo with baby, velvet, homemade, found in Pennsylvania, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 6 inches tall |
| 29 | Seal with pink ribbon, felt and silk, homemade, found in Pennsylvania, c. mid-20th century. Good condition. | 16 inches long |

STUFFED ANIMALS

BETH COLLER

hello@lackluster.co | [@lacklusterco](https://www.lackluster.co) | www.lackluster.co

- 30 Black dog, hand-painted velvet, c. fourth quarter 20th century. Excellent condition. 8.5 inches long

TARAH GAY & GABRIEL CONSTANTINE

tarahlaughing@gmail.com | [@publicsaleauction](https://www.publicsale.com) | www.publicsale.com

- 31 Signature bear, cotton with one button eye, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. 14 inches tall

SCOTT FILAR & JOY O'SHELL

shop@americanhuckleberry.com | [@americanhuckleberry](https://www.americanhuckleberry.com) | www.americanhuckleberry.com

- 32 Brown dog with splayed legs, cotton, c. early 20th century, Southeastern US. Excellent condition. 9 long
- 33 Miniature corduroy dog burdened by souvenir pins, Texas, c. mid 20th century. Good condition. 4.5 inches tall
- 34 Floral Scottie dog, oil cloth with hand-drawn eyes, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. 7.5 inches tall
- 35 Urban mystery animal, cotton with metal button eyes, yarn hair and downturned mouth, homemade, c. third quarter 20th century. Good condition with sun fading to fabric. 14.5 inches tall

EVAN GRANT

evangrant13@hotmail.com | [@evangmgrant](https://www.instagram.com/evangmgrant)

- 36 Green cat, velvet and felt, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. 9 inches tall
- 38 Monkey, wool with glass eyes, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. 12 inches tall

INVENTORY

- 39 Green dog, felt with button eyes, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Expected wear. 7 inches tall

ADAM IRISH

adam@oldasadam.com | [@oldasadam](https://www.oldasadam.com) | www.oldasadam.com

- 40 Cat with arched back, felt with wire tail, c. early 20th century. Timeworn, openings in tail. 8 inches long
- 41 Sad iron with padded bird handle, black felt, homemade, c. late 19th century. Expected wear. 9 inches tall
- 42 Pig, velvet with wooden hooves and faceted black glass eyes, homemade, c. late 19th century. Good condition with timeworn fabric. 17 inches long
- 44 Dog with blue bow, rabbit fur with glass eyes and cobalt blue glass nose, c. early 20th century. Good condition. 8 inches tall
- 45 Sleeping bear in pajamas, homemade, c. mid-20th century. Well-loved. 16 inches long
- 46 Dog stripped of features, velvet, c. late 19th century. Timeworn. 10 inches long
- 47 Spotted dog wearing his own coat, numerous repairs, c. late 19th century | Pinned note reads "Leo's 1890s". Well-loved. 14 inches long
- 48 Child's teddy bear muff and purse, plush fabric, c. mid-20th century. Good condition. 11 inches long
- 49 Teddy bear with one eye, mixed fabric repeat repairs, c. mid-20th century. Well-loved. 14 inches long
- 50 Bull's head wall mount, straw-stuffed leather, c. mid-20th century. Timeworn. Apparently the same maker of leather animal ottomans retailed by Abercrombie & Fitch. 13 inches tall
- 51 Lion with long mane, velvet with applied animal hair hide, c. early 20th century. Good condition, with discoloration to back leg from wire frame. 7.5 inches long
- 52 Black cat with note, oil cloth with button eyes, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Note reads: "You made this in Sunday school. Anyhow, part of it." Good condition. 8 inches tall

STUFFED ANIMALS

| | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 53 | Dog, velvet with with frayed blue ribbon and glas eyes, c. early 20th century. Well-loved. | 6 inches tall |
| 54 | Red dog with bow, dyed rabbit fur, c. mid-20th century. Excellent condition. | 6 inches long |
| 55 | Cat, velvet with rusted iron button eyes, c. late 19th century. Timeworn. | 7 inches tall |
| 56 | Pink bunny, cotton with mother-of-pearl button jointed limbs, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Excellent condition. | 13 inches tall |
| 56 | Rabbit, colored felt, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 12.5 inches long |
| 57 | Miniature bunny, oil cloth, homemade, c. early 20th century. Excellent condition. | 1.75 inches long |
| 58 | Brown monkey, wool, c. early 20th century. Expected wear. | 6.5 inches tall |
| 59 | Monkey with headache, wool, c. early 20th century. Timeworn. | 9 inches tall |
| 60 | Mouse Man, velvet and cotton, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 12 inches tall |
| 61 | Patriotic bear, wood and printing cotton bunting fabric, homemade, c. early 20th century. Good condition with a couple of small holes. | 12 inches tall |

HUMBERTO JIRON

hello@heimweeantiques.com | [@heimweeantiques](https://www.instagram.com/heimweeantiques) | www.heimweeantiques.com

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 62 | Bear on wheels, cotton stuffed with straw, leather harness and wooden frame, c. early 20th century. Timeworn with wear spot on nose. | 9.5 inches long |
|----|--|-----------------|

TINA JOCKEL

tina.jockel@gmail.com | [@tjockel](https://www.instagram.com/tjockel) | www.tinajockel.com

| | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 63 | Black Sheep purse with felt stars necklace, compartment with red striped lining and excelsior stuffing, c. second quarter 20th century. Estate find. Great condition. | 13 inches long |
|----|---|----------------|

INVENTORY

| | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 64 | Brown pig, cotton flannel with wooden spool nose, c. late 19th or early 20th century. Well-loved. Rural Western Pennsylvania origin. | 9 inches long |
|----|--|---------------|

JOSHUA LOWENFELS

joshlowenfels@aol.com | [@ployaarrtt](https://www.instagram.com/ployaarrtt) | www.joshualowenfels.com

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 66 | Snake used in Odd Fellows fraternal reenactments of Eden, hand-painted cotton, homemade, c. late 19th century. Expected wear. | 110 inches long |
| 68 | Musical lion, plush fabric with interior music box, c. mid-20th century. Expected wear. | 18 inches tall |
| 69 | Black cat with red eyes, plush fabric, c. fourth quarter 20th century. Excellent condition. | 17 inches tall |
| 70 | Snake with blue bandage repair, cotton with embroidered eyes, c. mid-20th century. Well-loved, repairs. | 31 inches long |
| 71 | Rabbit in polkadot pants, embroidered cotton, homemade, c. mid-20th century. Good condition. | 18.5 inches tall |
| 72 | Pink poodle, cotton and mohair, c. mid-20th century. Excellent condition. | 11.5 inches long |
| 73 | Dog, Art Deco print cotton with embroidered eyes, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 20 inches long |
| 74 | Balding brown dog, velvet with applied hairy hide, c. late 19th century. Balding, timeworn. | 14 inches long |
| 76 | Large horse with rhinestone eyes, velvet, c. second quarter 20th century. Well-loved. | 19 inches tall |
| 77 | Pair of bears, mixed printed cottons and embroidered felt, c. mid-20th century. Good condition, with minor discolorations. | 17 inches tall; 23 inches tall |
| 78 | Spotted dog with yellow coat, mohair with wire frame, c. late 19th century. Expected wear. | 8 inches long |
| 79 | Spotted dog with black coat, mohair with wire frame, c. late 19th century. Expected wear. | 8 inches long |

STUFFED ANIMALS

CATHY MCLAURIN

mclaurincathy@gmail.com | [@laborandglean](#)

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 80 | Boxed lamb with note as found, homemade, dated 1952. Note reads: "This little lamb was made by Mommie". Excellent condition. | 7.5 long |
| 81 | Cat with repairs and patches, corduroy stuffed with straw with glass button eyes, c. early 20th century. Well-loved. | 10.5 long |
| 82 | Plaid horse, cotton with button eyes, homemade, c. third quarter 20th century. Excellent condition. | 9 inches long |
| 83 | Donkey, mohair, c. early 20th century. Expected wear. | 10 long |

DAVID MOSES

info@winning-losing.com | [@winning.and.losing](#)

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 84 | Monkey clothes hanger, mohair, c. second quarter 20th century. Excellent condition. | 13 inches wide |
| 85 | Monkey with repaired sock hands, mohair, c. early 20th century. Well-loved. | 11 inches tall |
| 86 | Square bear pillow, mohair, c. early 20th century. Expected wear. | 14 inches long |

DANIEL SCHMIDT

danielschmidtx@gmail.com | [@danielschmidtantiques](#)

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 110 | Pair of tiny bears, felt, c. early 20th century. Timeworn. | 3 inches tall |
| 87 | Teddy bear with white and black button eyes, repeat repairs, c. late 19th century. Well-loved. | 16 inches tall |

ERIC OGLANDER

eric.oglander@gmail.com | [@tihngs](#) | www.tihngs.com

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 88 | Striped monkey, mixed fabrics with button eyes, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 9.5 inches tall |
|----|---|-----------------|

INVENTORY

MADISON SANTOS

doublestennisnyc@gmail.com | [@doubles_tennis](#) | www.doublestennis.biz

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 89 | Cat, painted oil cloth, c. second quarter 20th century. Timeworn, with several splits. | 16 inches including tail |
|----|--|--------------------------|

CHRIS & ALI WALKER

chris@wildsandco.com | [@wilds.things](#)

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 90 | Dumbo the Elephant, embroidered felt, homemade, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 5 inches long |
|----|---|---------------|

SUSAN WECHSLER

southroadantiques@me.com | [@southroadantiques](#) | www.southroadantiques.com

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 91 | Elephant in sheep's clothing, patterned oil cloth, c. second quarter 20th century. Good condition. | 9 inches long |
|----|--|---------------|

JANET WEST

janetwest@me.com | [@killingsistergeorge](#)

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 96 | Large green cow, plush fabric, c. mid-20th century. Well-loved. | 40 inches tall |
| 98 | Alligator, plush fabric, c. mid-20th century. Good condition. | 30 inches long |
| 99 | Large dog with long ears, plush fabric, c. mid-20th century. Good condition. | 13 inches tall |
| 100 | Sock cat with football, repurposed athletic socks, homemade, c. mid-20th century. Good condition. | 11.5 inches long |

photography by
EZRA ENZO

designed & edited by
ADAM IRISH



