



Dr. Charles Smith



Terri Yoho with Ruth Kohler



Jim Draeger, Erika Nelson, Peter Tokovsky, Alex Gartelmann

## THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

JM Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI  
September 26–29, 2017

The Kohler Foundation under the direction of Ruth Kohler and Terri Yoho has had astounding success over the years in its programme of protecting and conserving environmental sites around the United States. This conference was a testament to their achievements and attracted the leading figures in a much loved field to consider various aspects of discovery, display and conservation.

The event was accompanied by a stunning exhibition which included the Rhinestone Cowboys' complete house and a section devoted to SPACES and its founder Seymour Rosen which included Larry Harris' famous model of Watts Towers.

The conference began with a consideration of the role of museums in the conservation of works from environments by Valerie Rousseau (AFAM), Katherine Jentleson (High Museum) and Lisa Stone (Roger Brown). The high standard of panel members was sustained by contributions by Dr Iain Jackson (Nek Chand Rock Garden), Karen Patterson (Kohler Arts Center), Randall Morris (the importance of outsider art from the Caribbean), Jo Farb Hernandez (Spanish Environments) and Charles

Russell (Rutgers) among many others, who examined the way environmental works are perceived and their place in an art historical context.

One of the great successes of the Kohler programme in the last few years has been the complete and extensive restoration of Pasaquan, the environmental compound built by Eddie Owen Martin aka St EOM in Georgia. The conservators involved, including Fred Fussell, presented a detailed account of the progress and achievement of this complex project.

Artist and environment builder Dr Charles Smith led an impassioned discussion on his role and position in society and the relationship to his work. On the same panel Jenenne Whitfield was equally powerful in her presentation of Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project in Detroit and its struggle to stand against the negativity of city authorities and vandalistic arson attacks.

A celebratory dinner was held to honour Ruth Kohler and to acknowledge the achievements of the Kohler Foundation over the years with moving tributes from different speakers. The following evening saw a presentation in memory of Seymour Rosen and his pioneering organisation SPACES, the first to offer support and recognition to self-taught artist environments.

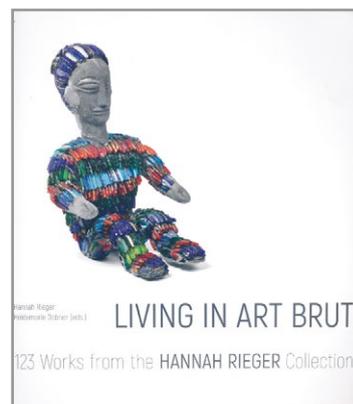
**John Maizels**



## LE GAZOUILLIS DES ÉLÉPHANTS

by Bruno Montpied, Editions du Sandre, Paris ISBN 9782358211161

This massive tome of almost 1000 pages is a life work by Bruno Montpied who is one of the foremost researchers of French environments. Every known site in every French Département is listed and described, with maps, photographs and information. This unprecedented work will be featured in a future *Raw Vision* where we hope we can do it justice.



## LIVING IN ART BRUT

Works From the Hannah Rieger Collection, ISBN 9783950217360

Hannah Rieger is one of Austria's leading collectors in the field of outsider art and this stylish book presents 123 works from her collection. Essays include texts by Johann Feilacher and Monika Jagfeld. There is understandably a strong emphasis on works from Gugging but the collection also extends to Nek Chand and Mary T Smith while contemporary outsiders include Guo Fengyi, Donald Mitchell, Michel Nedjar, Martha Grunenwaldt, Beverley Baker and the matchstick carvings of Pradeep Kumar.

**John Maizels**