



# THE HENRY DARGER STUDY CENTER FELLOWSHIP

at the American Folk Art Museum

Summer/fall 2010 applications due April 30, 2010

FOUR MANUSCRIPTS / Henry Darger (1892-1973) / Chicago / mid-twentieth century / mixed media / American Folk Art Museum, gifts of Kiyoko Lerner, 2003.7.1-204 / © Kiyoko Lerner / photo by Gavin Ashworth



# THE HENRY DARGER STUDY CENTER FELLOWSHIP

## Organized by the American Folk Art Museum's Contemporary Center and the Contemporary Center Steering Committee

Henry Darger (1892-1973), one of the most prominent artists of the twentieth century, lived and worked for more than forty years in a rented room in Chicago's Lincoln Park area, where he created an imaginary world for his personal satisfaction. Shortly before he died, Darger's artwork was discovered, and subsequently made public, by his landlord, the artist Nathan Lerner. What Lerner found were four unpublished manuscripts comprising more than thirty thousand pages of text; more than three hundred watercolor paintings that are often longer than nine feet; and thousands of ephemera Darger collected and used in his artistic process.

The Henry Darger Study Center, established by the American Folk Art Museum in 2000, houses all four manuscripts and more than two dozen paintings, as well as nearly five thousand items from Darger's archive of ephemera and source material. This comprehensive collection is one of a kind in the world of the art of the self-taught and is the largest public collection of works by Darger; it is also the largest collection of work by a single artist in the museum's holdings. As a result, the museum has become the most important institution for scholars interested in the work of Henry Darger. Every year, it receives countless requests for access to its Darger collection.

Committed to furthering the research on Henry Darger and contemporary self-taught artists in general, the museum offers the annual **Henry Darger Study Center Fellowship**, an initiative generously funded by Margaret Z. Robson. Each year, a fellow is selected to work closely with the museum's staff to study the Darger collection in depth for four weeks. (The four-week period will be determined in consultation with the director and curator of the Contemporary Center.) Access to the library and permanent collection will aid the fellow in researching the artist's manuscripts, artwork, and archive. At the conclusion of the fellowship, fellows are required to prepare a presentation to be given at the Nathan Lerner Annual Lecture during Outsider Art Fair, at the beginning of the following year. This presentation will illustrate aspects of the fellow's research at the museum and will be considered for publication on the museum's website.

The Henry Darger Study Center Fellowship is open to graduate students and PhD candidates enrolled in any qualified academic program in the United States or abroad.

The fellowship includes an honorarium and housing allowance. **For more information, please e-mail [fellowship@folkartmuseum.org](mailto:fellowship@folkartmuseum.org).**

Applicants should submit a one-page description of the scope of their research on Henry Darger, including the type of research and results achieved thus far, as well as a paragraph about the academic program they are enrolled in and a letter of reference from their academic adviser. Application deadline for the summer/fall 2010 fellowship is **April 30, 2010**.

The Contemporary Center Steering Committee, in consultation with the director and curator of the Contemporary Center and the executive director of the American Folk Art Museum, will review all submissions and contact the summer/fall 2010 fellow by June 15, 2010.

### **Please send applications to:**

Brooke Davis Anderson  
Director and Curator of the Contemporary Center  
American Folk Art Museum  
45 West 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10019

Electronically submitted applications will not be accepted. There is no application form.

**The Henry Darger Study Center Fellowship is generously funded by Margaret Z. Robson.**