

January 29, 2015

# HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE

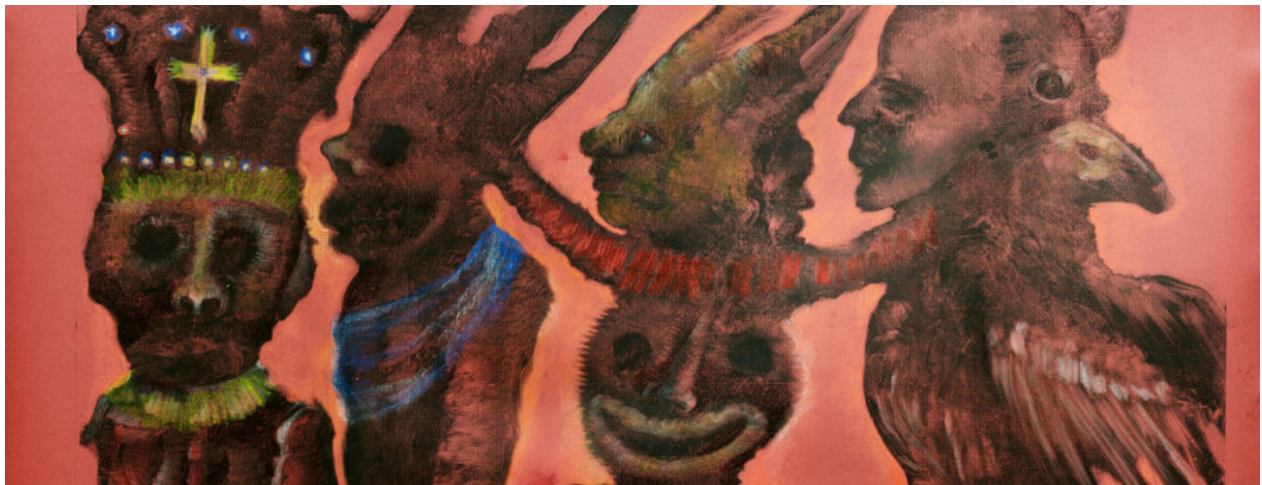
## Self-Taught Artist Christine Sefolosha Explores Where The Wild Things Are

### *The Outsider Art Of Christine Sefolosha*

The Huffington Post

By [Priscilla Frank](#)

Posted: 01/28/2015 9:59 am EST Updated: 01/28/2015 11:59 am EST



[The Outsider Art Fair](#) is coming to New York on January 29, bringing 50 international galleries of folk, self-taught, and outsider art to Center 548 for four glorious days. The fair offers the rare opportunity for artists operating far outside the regulations of the art world -- whether marginalized, isolated, incarcerated, institutionalized or psychologically compromised -- a space to show the vibrant and singular artworks that don't just reflect their worlds, but constitute them. In anticipation of one of our favorite art events of the year, we're spotlighting a different outsider artist every day.



Trolls, 2014 monotype on paper 70 x 80 cm © Polad-Hardouin Gallery

Sefolosa's works, rendered using everything from paint to tar and dirt, occupy the space of the in-between, in those very first moments when legible shapes and details emerge out of the muck. In her watery depictions, creatures dwell in the state between man and beast, in a place somewhere between reality and folklore, making the viewer feel suspended between waking life and a dream state. Spectral queens mingle with prehistoric beasts, mutant birds and anthropomorphized tree stumps, rendering a surreal limbo in a constant state of transformation.

Perhaps because of her work in the veterinary field, Sefalosa incorporates wildlife into her work with a sense of intimacy and enchantment. Gazing upon her works, one feels not as if there is a strict line dividing man and beast, but rather a spectrum as liquid as her filmy artworks.

"One of the predominant currents in Sefolosha's body of work to date is a decidedly animist worldview," Annie Carlano writes in *Raw Vision*. "Birds and animals are majestic beings to be respected, revered and emulated. With a sensitivity most often found in members of tribal societies, Sefolosha gives us the essence of her expressionistic creatures -- their soul -- revealing an uncanny affinity with authentic animal nature."

Sefolosha falls under the category of a self-taught artist - one who creates art without training and apart from any artistic institution. Her work draws comparisons to a wide range of images both from inside and outside the predominant art historical narrative, from primitive cave paintings to the surrealist nightmares of Remedios Varo. Unlike many of the other artists on view at the Outsider Art Fair, Sefolosha did not grow up with developmental disabilities or on the extreme outskirts of society, thus her work seems to exist right on the brink of inside and outside. However, like most rigid categories addressed in Sefolosha's work, the boundary between out and in gets lost in the haze of blues and purples, eyes and claws, memories and dreams.



Purple Dancer, 2013/2014 mixed media on paper 110 x 160 cm © Polad-Hardouin Gallery



*Sefolosa's work will be on view courtesy [Polad-Hardouin Gallery](#) at the Outsider Art Fair, from January 29 until February 1, at Center 548 in New York.*



Hulda, 2014 mixed media on paper 160 x 100 cm © Polad-Hardouin Gallery



L'enlèvement, 2014 monotype on paper 70 x 80 cm © Polad-Hardouin Gallery



Cadet Rousselle, 2013/2014 mixed media on paper 110 x 160 cm





Le voyage, 2013/2014 mixed media on paper 100 x 158 cm © Polad-Hardouin Gallery