

Jerry the Marble Faun of Grey Gardens at Outsider Art Fair NY

January 31, 2015

by Pat Rogers

Grey Gardens seems to be on people's minds lately. This summer, Bay Street Theater is presenting "Grey Gardens: The Musical" as its finale for the summer season. The musical is based on a 1975 documentary portraying the lives of Big Edie and Little Edie Bouvier Beale, the eccentric aunt and cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The musical is set at the Bouvier mansion in East Hampton, N.Y. where the pair lived and much of the documentary is set. This weekend, the stone work of their gardener, Jerry Torre, known as the Marble Faun, is being exhibited at the Outsider Art Fair by Jackie Klempay Gallery of Brooklyn. Torre also appeared in the documentary as a teen.



Installation of Jerry The Marble Faun's work at Jackie Klempay's Booth at Outsider Art Fair 2015. Photo by Sage Cotignola.

Torre's story as an artist picked up steam after leaving Grey Gardens. After Mrs. Bouvier-Beale passed in 1977, Jerry left the estate and spent time in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, said Klempay. There, Jerry had a horse named Confetti who became muse for some of the art exhibited at the Outsider Art Fair.



"Howler" by Jerry the Marble Faun, 2007. Cranberry Alabaster, 20 x 5 x 6 inches.



“ABDI” by Jerry the Marble Faun, 2009. Limestone with red brick, terra cotta, and olive oil patina, 14.5 x 11 x 7.5 inches.

Jerry’s current artwork in marble still bear the influence of those days living and traveling overseas travels, after he left East Hampton, said Klempay. “During his travels, Jerry saw ancient stone works that influence him to this day,” explained Klempay. “*False Door* is a reference to Egypt.”



"False Door" by Jerry the Marble Faun, 2009. Indiana limestone with red brick and olive oil patina, 15.5 x 10.5 x 4.5 inches.

After returning to the United States, Jerry Torre drove a cab for 20 years while continuing to carve stone. He currently lives and works in Queens and makes carved and cast stone artworks. His work is represented by Jackie Klempay Gallery of Brooklyn, N.Y.



“Windsor” by Jerry the Marble Faun, 2009. Indiana limestone with red brick and olive oil patina, 24 x 10 x 12 inches.

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BASIC FACTS: Outsider Art Fair presents its twenty-third edition from Jan 29 to Feb 1, 2015 at Center 548 in Chelsea, located at 548 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011. Admission costs \$20 for a one-day pass, and \$50 for a multi-day pass. For details, programming and tickets, visit www.outsiderartfair.com.

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