

POWERS / LOWENFELS GALLERY

53 STANTON STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 7, 2023

POWERS & LOWENFELS PRESENT, PICNIC: LETT-HAINES | GEORGE OHR & MORE

New York, NY — Steven S. Powers and Joshua Lowenfels present, Picnic: Lett-Haines | George Ohr & More. The nucleus of the exhibit centers around a rare collection of sculptural works by British artist Arthur Lett-Haines (1894-1978) and a select grouping of pottery by American master George E. Ohr (1857-1918). Picnic will have an opening reception on July 13 from 6:00-8:00pm and run through the summer until September 17.

Lett-Haines was an English painter and sculptor who, along with his lifelong partner, Cedric Morris, co-founded the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing (also known as Benton End), whose students included Lucian Freud, David Carr, and Maggi Hambling. Lett-Haines was known as the "father and facilitator" of the school, and along with numerous tasks between critiquing student works and administrating, he prepared two meals a day. In the early 1960s, he started creating small personal sculptures ("humbles"), which he assembled from food waste like animal bones, fruit skins, and plant matter. Then he combined these with other found materials like tobacco tins and aluminum flashing to create odd, quirky, fantastic creatures and objet.

As we have Lett-Haines for the picnic "meal," George E. Ohr sets the "table." Ohr, widely known as the "Mad Potter of Biloxi," was a remarkable artist whose innovative pottery approach challenged his time's conventions. His journey as an artist eventually led him to become the most influential figure in American ceramics. Ohr's artistic legacy extends far beyond his pottery—his daring and unorthodox approach to art continues to inspire contemporary artists. Among George Ohr's works are a couple of his desirable snake mugs, a bisque-fired pot with reference to the New Orleans newspaper, The Times-Democrat, and a rare and unusual match holder featuring the figure of a Brownie.

In addition to the core of the exhibition centered around Lett-Haines and Ohr, the theme of 'picnic' is complemented with additional works by Jack Youngerman, Nellie Mae Rowe, Ralph Albert Blakelock, Sanford Wurmfeld, R. E. Treubel, and a large selection of related paintings and sculpture by artists known and unknown.

Picnic: Lett-Haines | George Ohr & More runs from July 13 through September 17, 2023.

The gallery is open Thursday-Sunday 12:00-6:00 pm. To keep up to date on gallery features follow Steven S. Powers (@stevenspowers) and Joshua Lowenfels (@ployaarrtt) on Instagram.

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Installation view of sculpture by Arthur Lett-Haines (1894-1978), a Folk Art table mat (ca. 1890) and a painting by Jack Youngerman (1926 - 2020) from 1958.

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Arthur Lett-Haines (1894-1978): (upper left) Object Trouve Le Noir / animal bone, paint, aluminum flashing, epoxy; (upper right) Angel / animal bones, paint, candy or tobacco tins, epoxy; (bottom left); Witch Fetish / hardware, beads, paint, epoxy, matboard; (bottom right) Le Pere / avocado skin, animal bones, string, glass eyes, paint, paster, epoxy, aluminum flashing;

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(upper left) Installation view of pottery by George E. Ohr (1857-1918); an asylum period painting by Ralph Albert Blakelock (1847 - 1919); and a drawing by Kauko Lehtinen (1925 - 2012).

(upper right) George E. Ohr (1857-1918), Times Democrat Vessel / bisque fired clay ("Mud from New Orleans Street," with script signature and dated (1905) and "Times Democrat" written on the underside.

(bottom left) George E. Ohr (1857-1918), Snake Mug with ribbon handle and carved snake on a thrown mug, the whole with a mottled dark brown and gun metal exterior glaze and a speckled olive interior.

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Nellie Mae Rowe (1900-1982)

Untitled (Yellow Bird)

Circa: 1970s

Size: 12" x 18" (sight).