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**Contact(s)**

Rick Armstrong

T 412.237.8339

E armstrongr@warhol.org

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**THE ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM PRESENTS TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS,  
*HENRY DARGER AND GRAYSON PERRY***

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(Pittsburgh, PA) . . . October 31, 2005... The Andy Warhol Museum will present two exhibitions that highlight the work of two very different artists who both present emotional and complicated views of human behavior within intricately and obsessively-made works of art — self-taught artist Henry Darger (1892-1973) and contemporary British artist Grayson Perry. Both *Henry Darger: Highlights from the American Folk Art Museum* and *Grayson Perry* exhibitions will be on view at The Warhol, February 5 through April 30, 2006.

Culled from the American Folk Art Museum's extensive Henry Darger collection and organized by Brooke Davis Anderson, curator and director of the museum's Henry Darger Study Center, *Henry Darger: Highlights from the American Folk Art Museum* features more than 100 paintings, drawings and archival items, plus a volume of Darger's fantastical 15,000 page illustrated novel of a fictional child-slave rebellion, *In the Realms of the Unreal*. This seminal exhibition explores Darger's reclusive and mysterious life and brings together for the first time all the components of his creative process. The Warhol is the first venue to host this traveling exhibition, which represents the first time the American Folk Art Museum has arranged for its Darger collection to travel nationally. Following The Warhol, the exhibition will be on view at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle, WA.

Like Darger, London-based artist Grayson Perry works in a variety of media, but it is his ceramic works for which he is best known. The exhibition *Grayson Perry*, the first U.S. museum exhibition for the 2003 Turner Prize-winning artist, will feature more than a dozen of Perry's classically shaped pots covered with figures, patterns and text. Upon first glance, their decorative, colorful treatment hides Perry's revealing, and often dark, subject matter — ranging from autobiographical images of himself and his transvestite alter ego Claire, to contemporary issues of war, pedophilia and child abuse.

“While Darger’s and Perry’s lives never intersected, their work bears a striking similarity in its richly detailed and frank depictions of childhood innocence and vulnerability,” says John Smith, The Warhol’s director of collections and research and the curator of both exhibitions at The Warhol. “Whereas Darger’s narratives stem from a complex world of his own imagination, Perry’s imagery reflects an immediate concern with the flaws of contemporary society. Both artists’ work compels the viewer to look beyond the surface to reveal deeply troubling narratives of violence, sexual abuse, and the exploitation of the disenfranchised and powerless.”

**The Andy Warhol Museum**

117 Sandusky Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5890  
T 412.237.8300  
F 412.237.8340  
W [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org)

### Henry Darger

Chicago artist Henry Darger was a reclusive, religious man who created and inhabited an imaginary world through both writing and painting. Darger's work was discovered by his neighbor and landlord, photographer Nathan Lerner, and made public shortly before the artist died in 1973. The solitary artist left several diaries and unpublished manuscripts including a six-part weather journal kept for nearly ten years, an autobiography in eight volumes, *History of My Life*, and his illustrated fictional epic, *The Story of the Vivian Girls in what is known as The Realms of the Unreal, or the Glandeco-Angelinnian War Storm, Caused by the Child Slave Rebellion*. Over a period of nearly sixty years, Darger created an astonishing body of artwork to accompany this manuscript, fantastic mural-size watercolors executed in lyrical, seductive colors.

Begun when Darger was approximately 19 years old, *In the Realms of the Unreal* focuses on the heroic efforts of a band of young girls — the Vivian Girls — to free enslaved children held captive by an army of adults. Darger poignantly captures the powerlessness of enslaved peoples by depicting them as young, innocent and naked. Throughout the tale there is much death and destruction, but in the end the Vivian girls prevail. Writing first in longhand and then typing on 15,000 single-spaced pages, Darger proceeded to illustrate the story, teaching himself drawing and painting techniques in the privacy of his rented room in Chicago's Lincoln Park. Over a span of several decades he produced several hundred paintings, almost all in watercolor and many incorporating collage. As he became a competent painter and colorist, many of his paintings grew in scale to more than ten feet in length, and the majority of them are double-sided.

In addition to 20 paintings, the exhibition's archival materials will aid in interpreting Darger's artistic process. The archives include drawings and tracings by the artist and source material including: clippings from newspapers; magazines, comic books, cartoons, coloring books and children's books; photographic negatives and enlargements, personal documents and other ephemera. Displayed in a set of print drawers, this presentation illustrates each phase of Darger's composition and subject development. One bound volume of the original, typewritten manuscript of *In the Realms of the Unreal* and a microfiche of all Darger's writings are also included in the exhibition.

### **Grayson Perry**

Winner of the 2003 Turner Prize, British artist Grayson Perry creates seductively beautiful pots that convey challenging themes; at the heart of his practice is a passionate desire to comment on deep flaws within society. The forms of the pots may be traditional, but Perry distances himself from the typical canon of artistic ceramics. Rather, he uses pots as narrative and figurative media, a round, curved surface for a bizarre or bitter story. The pots are covered in a kind of psychic collage replete with stark, expressionistic drawings, hand written text, stenciled lettering and photographs. A master of incongruous juxtaposition, Perry scrawls savage satirical messages alongside sentiments of nostalgia for lost innocence.

Perry was born in Chelmsford, Essex in 1960 and studied at Braintree College of Further Education and at Portsmouth Polytechnic. In the early 1980s, Perry was a member of the Neo-Naturist group, participating in performance and film works. In addition to ceramics, he continues to work in a variety of media, which include embroidery and photography. His numerous solo and group exhibitions include the touring *The British Art Show 5* (2000), *Protest and Survive* at Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2000), *New Labour* at Saatchi Gallery, London (2001) and *Guerrilla Tactics*, at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and the Barbican Art Gallery, London in 2002.

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The Andy Warhol Museum receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the place of Andy Warhol's birth, The Warhol is one of the most comprehensive single-artist museums in the world. The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Additional information about The Warhol is available at [www.warhol.org](http://www.warhol.org).

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**Phone:** 412.237.8300  
**Hours:** Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, and Sun 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fri, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Mon closed  
**Admission:** Members - free  
Good Fridays - 5-10 p.m., Half-price Museum admission  
Adults - \$10, Sr. Citizens - \$7, Children/Students - \$6  
The Warhol Store/The Warhol Café – free