



INSIDE OUTSIDERS

William Kurelek was born in 1927 to a Ukrainian farm family who'd immigrated to Canada's prairie. Kurelek developed a passion for art early on but was discouraged by his father from pursuing it. While living in England in the early 1950s, he was institutionalized for depression and schizophrenia. It was during this stay at psychiatric hospitals in London and the vicinity that Kurelek created his best-known early works—*The Maze* and *Where Am I? Who Am I? Why Am I?* (shown here).

Kurelek went on to have a full psychiatric recovery. At the time of his death from cancer at the age of 50, he was considered Canada's greatest painter. He is one of the 20th century's best-known "outsider" or "visionary" artists—artists from positions beyond the mainstream of both the art world and everyday life, who perhaps are institutionalized, driven by religious zeal, or are simply great but untrained talent. Which is not to say that their work doesn't impact the mainstream. Art-world superstars from the turn of the last century (Paul Klee) to some of today's hottest names (David Shrigley) have been influenced by creations of those plagued by schizophrenia, in particular.

Pittsburgh will soon discover the influence of these outsiders, if tangentially so. Daniel Baumann, a curator of the prestigious 2013 Carnegie International at the Carnegie Museum of Art, is also the curator of the oeuvre of another important artist with schizophrenia, Adolf Wölfli; that collection is housed at the Museum of Fine Arts in Bern, Switzerland. With the hand of the psychiatric patient and other outsiders so prevalent in today's art world, it seems unlikely that Baumann would let these voices remain quiet. —Justin Hopper

WILLIAM KURELEK, *WHERE AM I? WHO AM I? WHY AM I?* PHOTO BY DAN MEYER, COURTESY AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM