



The artworks of Frank Calloway

1 message

Alan Blum

Sun, Apr 17, 2016 at 5:35 PM

To: edlingallery

Dear Mr. Edlin,

I am writing in regard to the art of Frank Calloway. For the past decade I have sought to create a photographic catalogue of his body of work. Knowing of my interest in art, a patient of mine (a former chaplain at Bryce Hospital) told me about Mr. Calloway, and in 2008 I brought his artworks to the attention of Rebecca Hoffberger, who in turn communicated with you about them.

Judge Hardy McCollum in Tuscaloosa granted permission for me to photograph Mr. Calloway's artworks, but last year when I went to retrieve them from Mr. Calloway's guardian ad litem, there were only three pieces. Rebecca informs me that the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) was given only one artwork and that the remaining 17 pieces that were on view in the AVAM exhibition in 2008-9 went to you. The eight artworks by Mr. Calloway shown on your website do not appear to have been in the AVAM exhibition. How many of his artworks do you have?

It would seem that you are the only other individual to hold more than one of Mr. Calloway's artworks. Three years ago, the day before I was to have picked up a bundle of Mr. Calloway's artworks for photographing that he had made at his last nursing home, I was told that his previous guardian, Zondra Hutto, had taken all of the artworks with her.

As you may know, this guardian was convicted of a felony for misappropriation of a substantial amount of other clients' funds and was removed as guardian of Mr. Calloway. I have been unable to locate either her or any of the missing artworks—apart from those that are in your possession, the few that are with the guardian ad litem, two that are still on view at health facilities, and five that I had previously acquired from the Alice Kidd Center of Bryce Hospital, where Mr. Calloway resided for many years. Do you know of the existence of other artworks of Frank Calloway? I should note that nine years ago I did succeed in getting the Center stop selling his works (for \$50 apiece in order to provide Mr. Calloway with art supplies) so that they might be photographed, catalogued, and further discussed.

Do you know the whereabouts of the former guardian? Have you been in contact with her in regard to the missing artworks of Frank Calloway?

I remain focused on trying to produce a photographic catalogue (ie, high resolution images of each entire artwork) and would like to arrange for an opportunity to photograph the works of Mr. Calloway that are in your possession. I am also writing an accompanying essay and am interested in learning the provenance of the artworks that you hold and the arrangement for their sale. Was there an agreement that part of the proceeds of the sale of his artworks go to his estate and/or to the Frank Calloway Foundation for the Arts, Inc. (see links below) set up by Ms. Hutto?

<http://www.nonprofitfacts.com/AL/Frank-Calloway-Foundation-For-The-Arts-Inc.html>

<http://nonprofits.findthecompany.com//1693342/Frank-Calloway-Foundation-for-the-Arts-Inc>
(Note that the tax-exempt status was revoked in 2014.)

I hope you can help solve the mystery of the missing artworks of Frank Calloway, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,