

The art of Frank Calloway...

Blum, Alan

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:12 AM

Dear Rebecca,

Long time no email. Hope all's well. I've enjoyed my recent visits to AVAM (every six months or so since we last communicated, usually on a week-end en route from BWI by Amtrak to New York).

As you may recall, I brought the art of Frank Calloway to your attention, and I am finally getting around to writing an essay about him. For a decade I have also sought to create (with the assistance of a remarkable photographer at the University of Alabama) a pictorial archive of his artworks. Finally last year the judge overseeing legal matters related to Mr. Calloway gave me permission to photograph the artworks, but when I went to pick them from up from the guardian I learned that she had only three pieces.

As you may have heard, Zondra Hutto, the original guardian ad litem at the time I first sought to photograph Mr. Calloway's artworks (and with whom I connected you, which resulted in the exhibition at AVAM in 2008-9), was convicted of misuse of clients' funds, served a sentence in a federal penitentiary, and was disbarred. She was also replaced as Mr. Calloway's guardian, but somehow she retained possession of Mr. Calloway's artworks. A few years ago, after I had arranged with the director of Mr. Calloway's final nursing home to photograph the artworks that he had created there, I was told that Ms. Hutto showed up and left with all of the artworks. I have been unable to ascertain her whereabouts. By any chance, have you been in touch with her, and do you know where the bulk of Mr. Calloway's artworks might be located?

In any event, I was hoping to be able to obtain images of the pieces of Frank Calloway's work that AVAM holds. Are all of the 18 pieces that you exhibited in 2008 still held by AVAM? And apart from the pieces that Andrew Edlin has on his website and the one on view in the Department of Mental Health in Alabama, do you know of any other artworks by Mr. Calloway?

I look forward to hearing from you and to catching up on things in general. One of my latest works in progress is a presentation and paper entitled, "Tattoo Stories: How body art narratives can enhance communication between patients and health care providers." Another is "From Aldactazide to Zylprim: A medical student's pharmaceutical prescription pad sketchbook and diary," about the book of my sketches and stories of patients that I kept during my medical school and residency years.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Alan

Alan Blum, MD

Professor and Gerald Leon Wallace, MD, Endowed Chair in Family Medicine
Director, The University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society
Department of Family Medicine
University of Alabama School of Medicine

Phone: 205.348.2880 | Fax: 205.348.2889 | ablum@cchs.ua.edu | <http://cchs.ua.edu>
The University of Alabama | 850 5th Avenue East | Tuscaloosa, AL 35401