

TEXAS GALLERY



J.B. MURRAY

This Well is Deep and Never Go Dry

APRIL 2 - MAY 7, 2022

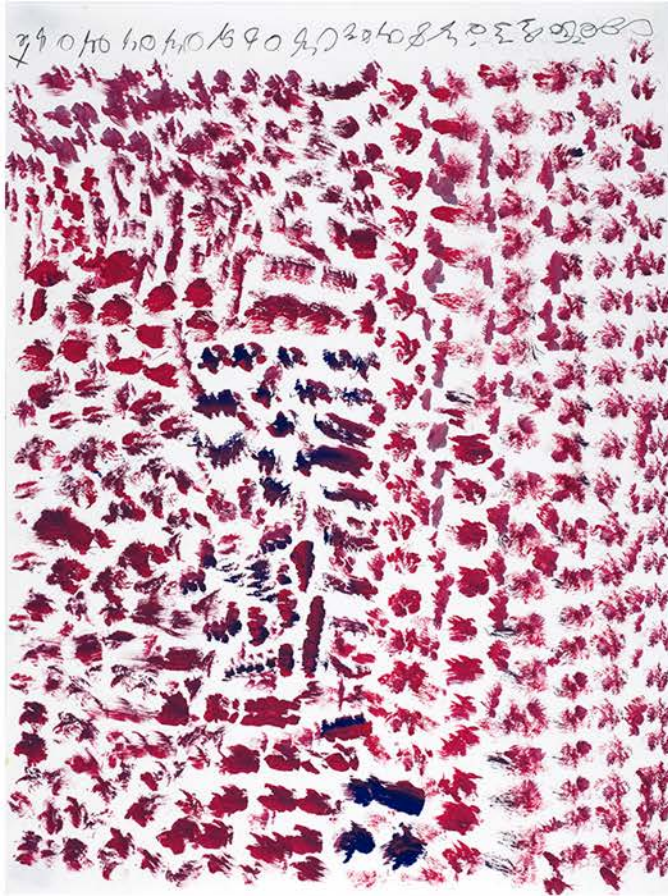
Untitled, c.1978-1988, Watercolor & marker on paper, 17 x 13 ¾"

Texas Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of visionary works by **J.B. Murray (1908-1988)**, comprising eighteen works on paper from 1978-1988 from a private collection.

John Bunion Murray was born in 1908 in a rural county of North Georgia. Murray, by the late 1970s, was a tenant farmer living in a small wooden house on a rather barren piece of property in Mitchell, Georgia. In 1978, while working in his yard, Murray experienced a visionary trance. From then until his death ten years later, he began to create drawings which he believed to be spiritual messages from God. For Murray, who was illiterate, the works took two forms - automatic writings in a script which only he could decipher and drawings of abstracted figures or spirits. While these works relate to the art of other African American artists such as Bessie Harvey, Nellie Mae Rowe and Sister Gertrude Morgan, recent scholarship also has linked them to the scripts and spirit forms of Africa. This invention of a vocabulary of text and image by an African American tenant farmer with little formal education who was transcribing a spiritual message gives them a particular intensity of form and composition.

This exhibition is accompanied by three works by **Bessie Harvey (1929-1999)** who also made startlingly intense sculpture informed by her spiritual faith. This is the first show of work by a single visionary artist at Texas Gallery. Previously, Texas Gallery has had notable group shows of Outsider Art beginning with an exhibition in 1997 of some 20 artists which included work by **Henry Darger**, **Bill Traylor** and **Joseph Yoakum**, who is the subject of a major exhibition at the Menil Drawing Institute opening on April 21, 2022, after venues at The Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art, NY.

Texas Gallery is open Monday through Saturday, 10-5pm and by appointment. For further information, please contact Nancy Douthey at info@texgal.com or 713.524.1593.



Untitled, c.1978-1988, Tempera & marker on paper, 24 x 18"

TEXAS GALLERY
2012 PEDEN STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77019
713.524.1593
info@texgal.com
www.texgal.com