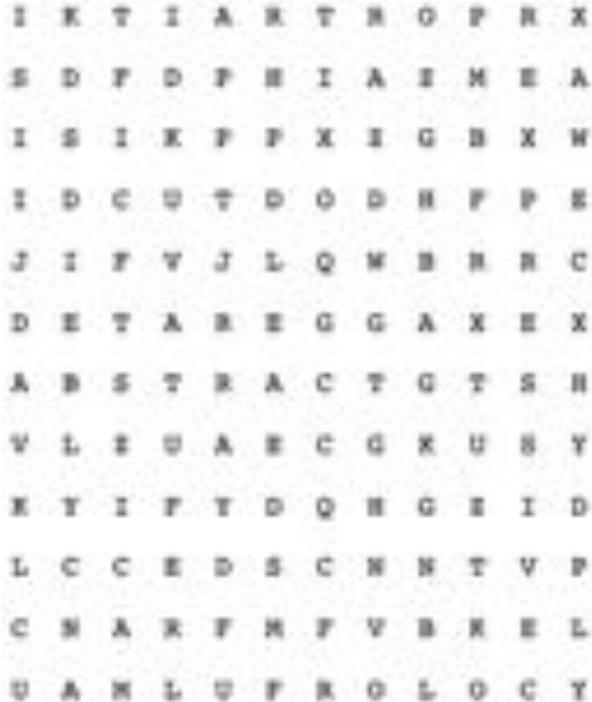


Find and circle all of the words you can find in the word search that describe Mumma's works, such as portrait, abstract, or colorful. Furthermore, think about other features you can find in his works!



Have you ever tried to draw or paint someone's portrait? Find a comfortable place at home and sit down to create a portrait of your own style!



# Edward "Mr. Eddy" Mumma

Vernacular Artist

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Written & Designed by Zhiju Liu



Edward Mumma, or "Mr. Eddy" as he was popularly known, was born in West Milton, Ohio on July 14th 1908. Instead of attending his ninth grade year, he hopped onto a freight train to travel the countryside and work odd jobs. He married Thelma Huebner whose father owned a meat packing factory in 1936. To escape enrollment in WWII, his family settled in Springfield with scanty farming skills. Later they started an antique and junk business which survived until his wife died of breast cancer in 1956.

Mumma drank heavily after the death of his wife and developed diabetes, which led to the amputation of his legs. After being diagnosed with schizophrenia and spending some time in the hospital, he moved to Gainesville, Florida to be closer to his daughter, Carroll Lee Mumma. Carroll encouraged him to take an art class to keep his mind off his illness. Unfortunately, Mumma said that the art instructor accused him of being intentionally sloppy and left the class. However, the class triggered an interest in art.

Mumma painted mostly abstract portraits with exaggerated hands and faces. At times he would depict animals, cars and sailboats. He became well known for painting the same iconic face, though he differentiated each work with colors, hand placement, and clothing. He often painted both sides of the canvas, plywood, or cardboard he used to make his artwork. Today, his work can be seen in the American Folk Art Museum in New York City, the Mennello Museum of American Art in Orlando, and the St. James Place Museum in North Carolina.

## Mumma's Iconic Face



Edward Mumma, (sides 1 & 2) untitled, n.d., acrylic on canvas, 18 24 inches, Gadsden Arts Center & Museum Permanent Collection, 2010.1.9

Above is a typical work by Edward “Mr. Eddy” Mumma. This work features the single portrait of a man in elaborate dress with a round face, and the artist has painted portraits on both sides of the canvas.

## Glossary

portrait - art showing a person or several people

abstract - art that is based on real life, but has been altered so that it no longer looks realistic

realistic - a style of art in which the artist attempts to depict objects accurately

expressive - art showing emotions and feelings clearly and openly

exaggerated - a style of art that has been depicted as more impressive than it really is

**EXPLORE THE ARTIST'S MIND!**

1. Did you know that Mumma painted on both sides of his canvas and even painted lampshades and appliances in his home? When asked why his works are painted on both sides, Mumma replied that he thought that was the way it was supposed to be done.
2. From Mumma's works we can see he painted abstract versions of exaggerated hands and faces. What do you think he is intending to express?