

# Foreword



Something extraordinary has happened to American art...it has moved out of museums and paraded right through main streets from coast to coast. Towns and cities have been transformed by bigger-than-life, fiberglass sculptures, painted by the best established and emerging artists in the country.



These inspiring outdoor exhibitions have enlivened communities and enriched the national landscape while delighting millions of people from New York to San Francisco, from Chicago to Dallas and everywhere in between. Big, bold and uniquely American, these public art parades have sparked cultural tourism and reinvigorated the arts and downtown redevelopment, all while joyfully raising millions of dollars for worthy non-profit organizations.



By its very nature, art requires a strong sense of place and a powerful sense of purpose to thrive and *American ArtParades* captures this spirit with flying colors. American artist Grant Wood, whose talents are honored in this book with *Overalls All Over*, reminds us that you don't need to look beyond your own backyard, to find things worth celebrating. And that is exactly what these art parades are all about...creatively celebrating the cultural heritage and history of America's cities and towns through public art. These imaginative exhibitions have created an extraordinary body of original art that has captivated this an entire nation.

*American ArtParades* introduces this sensational "New American Art Movement" to the world. This blast of creativity is truly artful entertainment that has rocked the art establishment and developed an enthusiastic audience that has turned these art parades into a new spectator sport. These exhibitions are innovative, interactive and inspiring, and they have invited people to redefine the very notion of what art is and what art can do. This is freedom of expression at its very best!



America is a culture of creativity and compassion and this is gloriously illustrated in *American ArtParades*. We invite you to take a cultural detour and explore this great country through these art parades that are filled with so much heart and soul that they have given everyone a reason to smile. Discover why we say, "Never in the history of American art have so many done so much for so many."

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