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OUTSIDERS ART & COLLECTIBLES

718 Iredell St, Durham
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Q: What events or special offers do you have coming up in the next few weeks?

A: Well, I just had my 'grand opening' a month ago and hosted an 'open house' on Sunday, Dec. 6, so no immediate events. I am, however, planning monthly 'meet the artist' evenings and 'special guest lecturer' events to discuss the often misunderstood genre of outsider art.

In the meantime, I would be happy to offer a 10% discount to anyone who mentions this Q&A.

Q: What makes your business unique to your clients or customers?

A: There is no other gallery in Durham that focuses primarily on Outsider Art so it's a treat to be able to expose people to this wonderful style.

Q: What is your favorite part about what you do?

A: Many outsider artists have unique backgrounds and lives; I love learning about their amazing stories. And I love to see the expressions on the faces of customers who have found something new to love.

Q: What is the weirdest thing you sell?

My phone number to single men? I guess the thing I like most about Outsider Art is that what is weird to one person is beautiful someone else. I think it's all weirdly beautiful.

Q: Tell us about your first sale.

A: My first sale was a 'metal man' by Pittsboro (now Portland, OR) artist Kimberly Matin. I have to admit it was hard to let him go.

Q: What made you decide to open your business?

A: I have been collecting for years and dreamt about opening a pet-friendly B&B called the 'Outsider Inn' that would be totally decorated with outsider art. After looking for the right house and location in Durham for 2 years, I finally decided to do the gallery by itself.

Q: Where are you originally from?

A: I grew up in Asia (5 years in the Philippines and 8 in Hong Kong) and moved to New England for undergrad and graduate schools. I moved to Durham ten years ago to be with my mother, Audrey Chase. She collected outsider art before the term 'outsider art' was even being used and she remains a huge part of my inspiration.