

# The New Criterion

Notebook June 2014

## Beauty out of madness

by Theodore Dalrymple

*Looking at the Prinzhorn Collection, a collection of artwork by psychotic patients.*



*"The Electric Pencil" drawing by James Edward Deeds*

Whenever I am in Heidelberg, which is not often, the Prinzhorn Collection is my first port of call. The Prinzhorn Collection is the world's first, largest, and best collection of art by psychotic patients, founded by the psychiatrist Dr. Hans Prinzhorn. To Prinzhorn belongs the honor, to my mind a considerable one, of having recognized artistic merit in the productions of psychotic persons and not merely pathological manifestations of grossly disordered psyches. It bespeaks a laudable openness and largeness of spirit in him as well as an admirably independent aesthetic judgment. These do not always go together. The...

The rest of this article is locked. Please make sure you are logged in to view the full article.

**Theodore Dalrymple** worked as a doctor in a British inner-city hospital and prison.

This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 32 Number 10 , on page 86

Copyright © 2024 The New Criterion | [www.newcriterion.com](http://www.newcriterion.com)

<https://newcriterion.com/issues/2014/6/beauty-out-of-madness>