

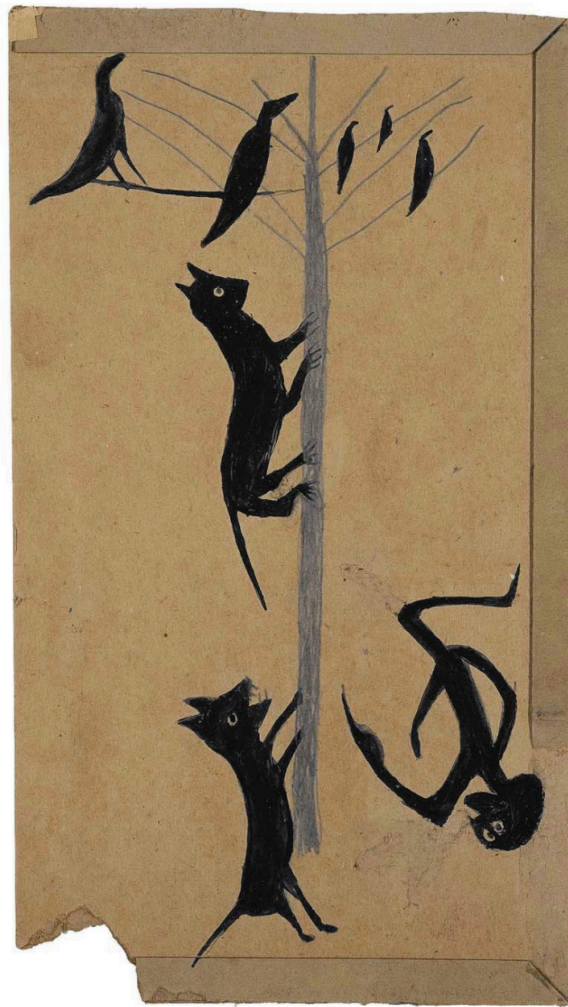
TRAYLOR bill

1854 . benton . états-unis

1947 . montgomery . états-unis

Né esclave, Bill Traylor est affranchi par son propriétaire après la guerre de Sécession, mais choisit de rester travailler dans la même plantation de coton. Père putatif de vingt-deux enfants, il perd sa femme en 1938 et déménage à Montgomery. Il a alors quatre-vingt-quatre ans. Sans ressources et vite sans toit, il se met à dessiner sur les trottoirs de Monroe Street. Il utilise tous les supports à sa disposition – bouts de papier, cartons récupérés, fonds de boîtes – et la moindre irrégularité du matériau s'intègre à sa composition. Son monde rempli d'animaux et de personnages familiers évoque des choses quotidiennes – la vie de la ferme, les bagarres, les anecdotes, les difficultés de son existence. En trois années, Bill Traylor réalise mille cinq cents dessins environ. En 1942, il part vivre avec ses enfants à Detroit, puis à Washington, et reviendra à Montgomery après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Pendant cette période, il ne dessine pratiquement pas.

Born into slavery on George Hartwell Traylor's cotton plantation, Bill Traylor was freed by his owner after the Civil War, however chose to remain working in the plantation. Putative father of twenty-two children, he lost his wife in 1938 and moved to Montgomery. He was then eighty-four years old. Destitute and homeless, he started to draw on the sidewalks of Monroe Street. He used all supports at his disposal – scraps of paper, recycled cardboard, pieces of paper boxes – and the slightest irregularity of the material became part of his composition. His world filled with animals and familiar figures evoked everyday things – the life of the farm, the fights, the anecdotes, the difficulties of his life. In three years, Bill Traylor created about one thousand five hundred drawings. In 1942 he went to live with his children in Detroit, then in Washington, and would return to Montgomery after the Second World War. He fell ill and one of his legs had to be amputated due to gangrene. During that period, he had almost stopped drawing. He died shortly afterwards in a nursing home.



TECHNIQUE: mine de plomb et gouache sur carton

DIMENSIONS: 43 x 24,2 cm

DATE: entre 1932 et 1942