

THE CLOSER

Flips and splits of New York's real-estate community

✿ Want to fill your walls with something exciting and odd? Start here: **The Outsider Art Fair**, one of New York's most well-attended art shows, opens today at 7 W. 34th St.

Long considered "folk art," outsider art comes from a French term translated as "rough art." It is self-taught art crudely but skillfully done by people often considered marginal. Art done by prisoners, mental patients, sailors or old women in Tahiti fits the bill. Materials can be anything the artist can find, including doll parts, bird feathers or metal.

New York's **Fountain Gallery**, a not-for-profit run by and for artists living with mental illness, will be showing at the fair for the second consecutive year. **Dick Lubinsky's** "Girl With the Red Hat" (right above) will be on display.

Considered the top outsider-art selling event in the world, the show runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. today, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$20 daily.

FOUNTAIN GALLERY



Call (212) 777-5218 or visit sanfordsmith.com for more information. The New York show has been running since 1993. Some proceeds from the fair will benefit Doctors Without Borders' efforts in Haiti.

✿ If the properties on **TriStatePropertyExchange.com** ever get as beautiful as the site's twin founders, then it has a good chance of making waves in the real estate industry.

Advertising itself as a site that connects people with properties, similar to a dating site for singles, TriStatePropertyExchange was created by **Jodie and Diane Fanelli** (below), attractive Maxim models with experience in the real estate business.

The beauties from New Jersey came up with a way both to list properties and exchange high-end residences. The idea is to provide someone looking to swap a suburban mansion with, say, a city pied-à-terre, a beach house with a ski house, a Staten Island waterfront condo with a Brooklyn home. Homebuyers and sellers will have similar options. Agents, buyers and sellers can list residential and commercial properties for a one-time \$25 fee.



PETER HURLEY