

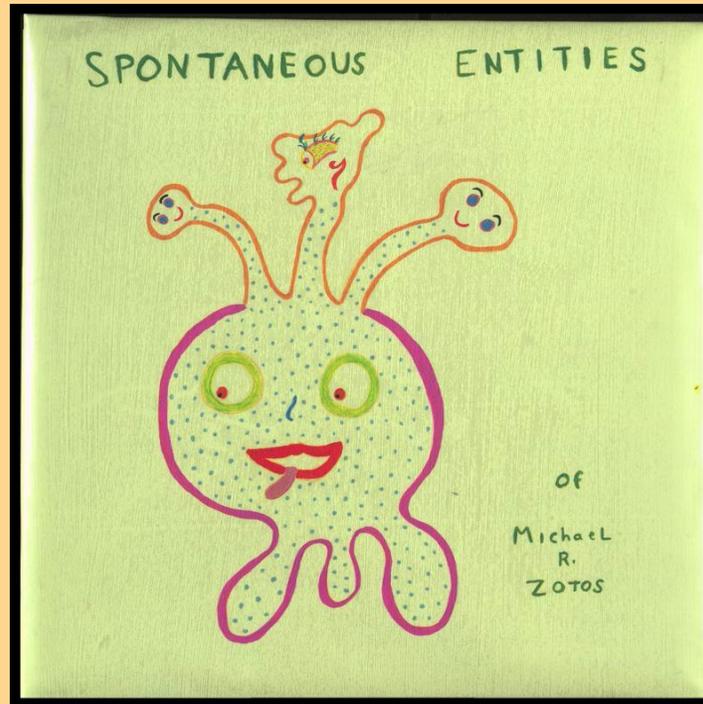


Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Spontaneous Entities, a Scrapbook of Michael Zotos's Artwork

"What is that?" or "Hey, I've seen that somewhere before!" may be your first thoughts upon seeing the amorphous figure in the image above. I started noticing them a couple of years ago painted on pieces of plywood and randomly dispersed throughout the Hamptons, usually displayed on utility poles or parading across storefronts along Route 27. Imagine my delight and surprise when I discovered they had an origin and a name! Though it seems the mystery was solved a few years ago according to some local newspaper articles I've come across, I learned the drawings are called "spontaneous entities" and they're the creation of Holtsville artist Michael R. Zotos. In explaining his process, Zotos admits his entities are freely drawn in the spur of the moment, with no thought applied to the drawings beforehand. They're an expression, the conveyance of an emotion or feeling, and not simply an illustration. Once an outline has been made, the artist then applies eyes and other details to the figure, creating a biomorphic character that's part animal and part plant, which is either seen alone or in a grouping of other spontaneous entities. The plywood pieces we see today developed from early drawings that Zotos would either watercolor, frame, or create interactive scenes for. In 2009, he started using plaster and plywood to make them more three dimensional and would later mount them on panels in different variations to display in New York City and on Long Island. By 2012, Zotos' pieces started appearing along roadways and in front of businesses in the Hamptons, such as Out of the Closet (a vintage store in Water Mill that is now closed), Duckwalk Vineyards, and Hildreth's. Earlier this year, Michael R. Zotos donated the above scrapbook (which is a work of art itself) to the [Long Island Collection](#), which explains and documents his unique work.

EXPLORE MORE

The Digital Long Island Collection is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

The East Hampton Star Archive is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

The Karl Grossman Research Archive is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

The Local Artist Research Archive is a collection of over 10,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week." We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs.

We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to **Digital Long Island** on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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