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**two outsiders:**  
**martha grunenwaldt & michael hall**

**29 maart 2003 - 3 mei 2003**  
**open: dinsdag t/m zaterdag 13.30-17.30 uur**  
**opening: zaterdag 29 maart 16.00-18.00 uur**



michael hall, haufensäulen mit klockenwasser, 1996 gem.techniek/papier, 43 x 61



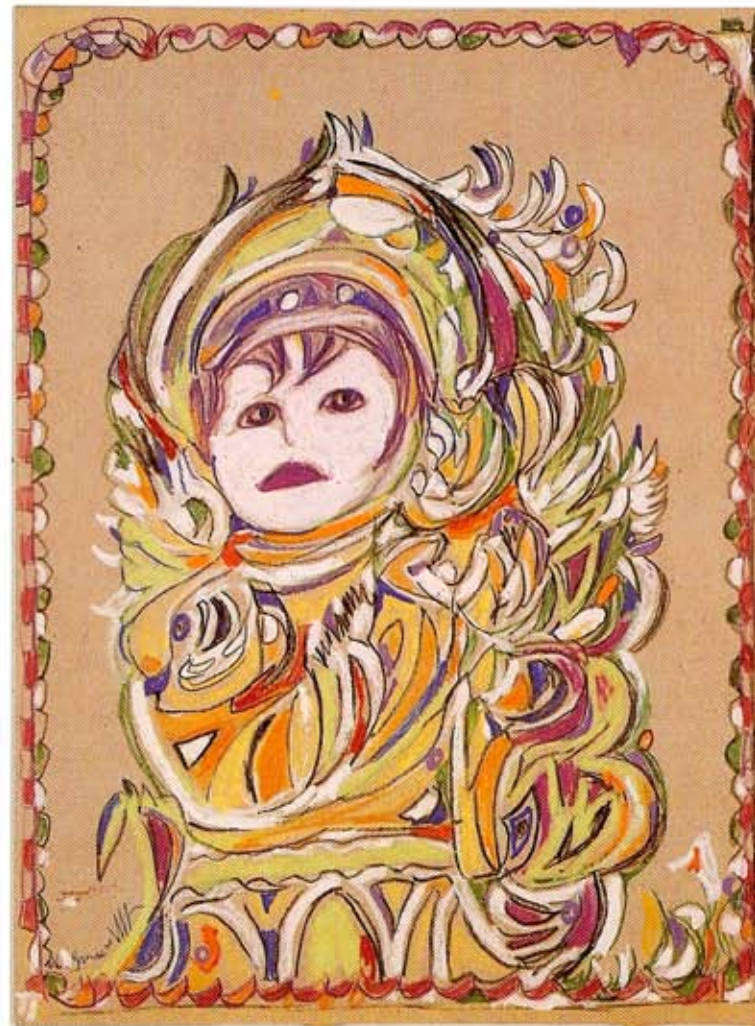
**Martha Grunenwaldt** is born at Hamme-Mille (Walloon Brabant), Belgium in 1910. Her father traded in musical instruments and was conductor of the local brass band. Martha's grandmother, with whom she lived for quite some time, made artificial flowers for a milliner. Her father teaches her to play the violin, and when she is six years old she starts accompanying him and her two brothers to parties and celebrations in the neighbourhood where they play, going to school is neglected. Later she works at a factory and marries an electrician who plays the saxophone at dance parties during the weekends. She

is to be divorced in 1937, and tramps about with her small daughter for a while, earning a little money by playing the violin in the streets. By the end of 1940 the father takes in his daughter, who is ten years old by then, and out of sheer necessity Martha starts working as a live-in maidservant at a castle, where she is forbidden to play her beloved violin. After 27 years she finally returns to her native region and keeps body and soul together again by playing the violin in front of sidewalk café's and in pubs. In 1968 her daughter takes her in. She is 71 when she starts drawing, probably incited by the contact with her grandchildren. In the beginning the family is not very pleased with Martha when she withdraws with her drawings, they have a feeling she is trying to back out of the household duties. Gradually, however, admiration for an unstoppable production grows. Her early work is still closely related to children's drawings, but by the late 1980's the representation becomes more condensed and the sheet is filled to the edge with curly, dancing shapes in all kinds of colours. Sometimes architectural structures appear, but mostly faces and elegant female figures emerge between the flourishing forms. When asked she says she likes to draw women because 'women are more beautiful than men'. Martha Grunenwaldt experienced her breakthrough after her exposition in the 'Art en Marge' centre at Brussels (1987). *(Information obtained through recent conversations with daughter Josine).*



**Michael Hall** is born at Heidelberg, Germany, in 1962. Michael Hall is mentally handicapped. From 1987 he has visited a day centre at Sinsheim, where an art studio was opened in 1998, at which Michael Hall has worked ever since. Initially Michael lived in his aunt's house, but at his own request he moved to the institution when living quarters had been finished there in 1999. Preferably those people are admitted to the art group who, like Michael, have loved to draw from an early age on. After having created numerous drawings in ink, Michael discovers crayons in the mid 1990's, and he develops a more elaborate drawing

technique, filling not only the image objects with hatchings (like Franz Kernbeis), but the spaces in-between as well. He uses pencils of different colours for this purpose, thus creating a rich texture. Michael relates events experienced in his immediate surroundings. His work shows a clear need for order and organisation, has graphic as well as colouristic qualities and shows a certain ingenuity in its design. Michael possesses a special verbal talent as well, and sometimes makes up his own words. 'Kloksenwasser' is his name for alcoholic beverages, and there are drawings he calls 'Dränglerbild', because in creating them he wants to draw the fulfilment of a wish closer. Michael Hall likes swimming and



martha grunenwaldt, zonder titel, gem.techniek/karton, 36x26,5

music, which is also expressed in his work. Since 1997, however, he has also made objects of papier-mâché, using branches found in the woods. The sculptures, which retain the fanciful shapes of the brushwood, are provided with detailed ornamental depictions with the aid of coloured ink.