

**SPACES 1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, CA 90028  
(213) 463-1629**

**Florida - Stanley Papio - scrap metal sculptures**

**BIOGRAPHY**

- ca. 1915 Stanley was born in Canada.
- 1949 At the age of 49 (cf. Separate Reality) he settled in Key Largo, the Florida Keys.
- Having worked at various jobs, he finally settled on his favorite, welding, which later provided him with the skills for his unusual art. He began to create his own environment at Stanley's Iron Works, Mile Marker 101, Key Largo. He later named his environment, "Stanley's Museum of Folk Art." To insiders he became known as "Barefoot Stan." (Damrosch 1975). Apparently he had an assistant (not in the building of the environment): a retired machinist from Cleveland (cf. ARSENAL). He used bed springs to fence his property. Locals contributed other discards such as automobiles, appliances and other sources of scrap metal. Papio was jailed 6 times for not following zoning laws. Eventually, his work attracted much attention from private collectors and art critics. The University of Miami offered him a teaching job. Several exhibitions were devoted to his work (cf. Separate Reality).
- 1982 Stanley Papio died of a heart attack at the age of 67, just before the planned tour of his works throughout the United States (cf. Separate Reality). His heirs donated his works to the Key West Art and Historical Society, housed in the East Martello Tower Museum, Key West, FL (supported under the auspices of the Florida Folk Life Program).
- 1984 The sculptures won a National Endowment for the Arts grant.
- 1985 The sculptures won a State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs grant for a conservation study.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

DAMROSCH, Barbara

1975 "Backyards" Esquire December, pp. 162-165\*

**KEY WEST ART AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

? "Art and History Come Alive at Key West's East Martello Museum," tourist brochure, which contains information about Papio's sculptures, featured attractions at the museum.\*

**MUSEUM OF ART, FORT LAUDERDALE**

1987 A Separate Reality: Florida Eccentrics Fort Lauderdale: Museum of Art\*

ROSEMONT, Franklin

1976 "Stanley" ARSENAL: English Journal of the International Surrealist Movement, no. 3\*

**EXHIBITIONS**

"America Now"

"A Separate Reality: Florida Eccentrics," Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, April 23-July 5, 1987; Valencia Community College, Orlando, August 17-September 25, 1987; Florida State University, Fine Arts Gallery and Museum, Tallahassee, October 2-25, 1987.

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**CONTACTS**

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