



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "IN THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL"**

By Jessica Yu

"[An] excellent new documentary. . . . Ms. Yu emphasizes the aesthetic qualities of Darger's work, using her camera to prowl his paintings, bringing out the extraordinary dynamism. . . .

A team of computer animators . . . bring the paintings to discreet, sensitive life. . . .
Darger's work is difficult to confront and consume; Ms. Yu has brought it a little closer."

- **David Kehr, *The New York Times***

"Remarkable. . . . Just as Darger used his limited life to create and explore new worlds, so does Yu use Darger as a vehicle for expansion of the documentary form. *In the Realms of the Unreal* . . . is so startling precisely because every frame of the film was a decision of its director."

- **John Anderson, *Newsday***

"While the story of Darger's life provides a narrative structure, it is the paintings that give the film its magical, hallucinatory qualities. Since Darger's canvases are crammed with detail, . . . Yu decided to animate them in the film. . . . It is an uncanny and often thrilling style of animation."

- **Nathaniel Rich, *The New Republic***

"Darger's life had a haunting quality, simultaneously sad and sweet. Jessica Yu captures both extremes in this elegant documentary."

- **Mike Hughes, *Gannett News Service***

"Jessica Yu's elegant new doc *In the Realms of the Unreal* is a spry, creative response to [Darger's] oceanic talent and claustrophobic life."

- **Village Voice**

"Enchanting animation . . . brings to life a gossamer fairy-tale world. . . . Yu easily persuades the viewer to care about Darger and his art and to become concerned about its fate."

- **Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times***

"Wildly inventive. . . . truly a one-of-a-kind documentary."

- **Bob Strauss, *Los Angeles Daily News***

"Many documentaries and biopics about artists are so hushed and awed that they leave audiences wondering what the fuss was about. It's rare to find a film about an artist that actually makes his or her work come alive in new ways."

- **Maureen Ryan, *Chicago Tribune***

"Absorbing, inspired and exquisite."

- **John McMurtrie, *San Francisco Chronicle***

"A fascinating documentary."

- **The Boston Globe**

"Brilliantly brings the artist's imagination to life."

- **Manuel Mendoza, *Dallas Morning News***

"An engrossing introduction to the artist and his work."

- **Eric Harrison, *Houston Chronicle***

“Absorbing and exquisite. . . . The choice of the child actress Dakota Fanning . . . as the film’s narrator is brilliant.”

- **John McMurtrie, *Miami Herald (International Edition)***

“[The film is] an artwork in its own right, an engaging and inspired interpretation, as complex and mysterious as Darger himself, that probes the intangible components of the creative process and the elemental relationship between artists and their creations.”

- **Mary Thomas, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette***

“A fantastic journey into the head of an unknowable man. . . . Yu's film is haunting, troubling and weirdly exhilarating.”

- **Robert W. Butler, *The Kansas City Star***

“Darger’s life has a haunting quality, simultaneously sad and sweet. Jessica Yu captures both extremes in this elegant documentary.”

- **Cincinnati Enquirer/Post**

“Some documentaries take on major, global themes, while others, like the remarkable *In the Realms of the Unreal*, illuminate a single curious life.”

- **Hap Erstein, *Palm Beach Post***

“Documentarian Jessica Yu . . . interwove the man, his writings and his art in a magnificent way. . . . Take a chance on this movie and allow yourself to meet a most unusual man and a most unusual world.”

- **John Douglas, *Grand Rapids Press***