

OAF 2025 | RYAN MATTHEW COHN BOOTH C13

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Ryan Matthew Cohn is a unique authority on art and antiques who defies conventional categorization. His works are often summarized a genre of "curiosities" and "oddities." Cohn is a lifelong collector and researcher of this esoteric genre as well as a leading figure of its promotion and study. Beginning his professional career in Manhattan's East Village GalleryObscura Antiques, Cohn was a co-host of the DiscoveryChannel's reality television series "Oddities" from 2010-2014. The show focusedon unusual scarce objects as well as the clientele who purchased and sold theses objects to the gallery.He is also the host of "Antiques and Their Afterlives", a bi-monthly Atlas Obscura livestream, that discusses object'sprovenances in various collections.



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Cohn has built an extensive international network and has acquired some of the rarest artifacts on and off the market. A notable collection he acquired was the intact collection of human waxworks from Castan's Panopticon (Berlin's first waxwork museum) which included anatomical models and death masks that were in storage for nearly a century (since its closing in 1922). In the past year, Cohn has accumulated the majority of the late Richard Harris's collection, one of the world's finest assemblages of art focused on death as a subject. He is currently cataloging these pieces with the intention to hold an exhibition in Harris' honor.

In 2017, Cohn and his wife Regina M. Rossi founded "The Oddities Flea Market", featuring specialist dealers and artists selected through a rigorous application process. "The Market", and its following, has grown annually and currently has four locations: New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

In addition to working as a consultant for museums worldwide, Cohn creates commissioned installations with his collection, such as "Myths & Mysteries" at the Armour Stiner Octagon House in Irvington, N.Y., which ran for two consecutive seasons. As previously noted, he is a host of "Antiques and Their Afterlives", a bi-monthly livestream on Atlas Obscura that explores the history of artworks and antiques in private and public collections. Cohn and Rossi also co-authored their first book, "The Witch's Door: Oddities and Tales from the Esotericto the Extreme", which was released in October 2024.

For this fair, Ryan has stretched his oeuvres and selected 2 haunting sculptures created with osteological specimens, and very rare and early reliquary remnants.