

THE KentuckyHistoricalSociety PRESENTS

LEADERSHIP & LEGACY IN KENTUCKY HISTORY

ALMA LESCH | 1917-1999

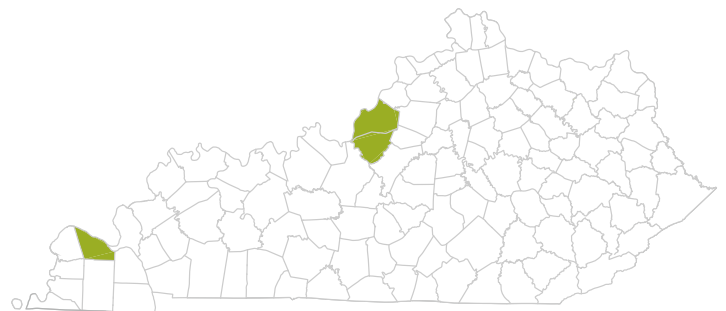


Artist Alma Lesch made "Southern Gothic" in 1972, combining a blue work shirt, overalls, woman's dress, eyeglasses case and book, "The Spirit of Sweetwater" by Hamlin Garland. (1981.39.11 Kentucky Arts Commission Collection, Kentucky Historical Society)

PUTTING THE "ART" IN FOLK

ART – There are no people in Anna Lesch's portraits. No faces, arms, hands. No flesh. Yet her portraits show the essence of her subjects, the people of Kentucky. Lesch used old clothing, fabric and found objects in her innovative approach to portraiture. She titled her works by subject name (Uncle Bob) and the characteristics that defined them (Salt of the Earth). Through Lesch's fabric portraits, collages and other creations, needlework and other works from the crafts revival of the 1960s found acceptance as art.

KHS Historical Marker #2159 gives a short biography of Alma Wallace Lesch. Search marker number 2159 [here](#) to read it.



McCracken County, Bullitt County, Jefferson County

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.