

## Artist Biography



Joseph Elmer Yoakum (born 1886 –1972) said that he began to draw at the age of 76. Yoakum came to art following years of work and travel, from working on freighters and railroads, to traveling with the circus and spending time in France with the military during the First World War. It was not until 1962, when, inspired by a dream, that he made his first drawing. Yoakum proceeded to work intensely on his art over the next eight years, often producing multiple pieces each day.

Yoakum 's work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Artist House, New York; Northern Illinois University, Dekalb; Douglas Kenyon Gallery, Chicago; Wabash Transit Gallery, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Rockford College Art Gallery, Rockford, Illinois; Candy Store Gallery, Folsom, California; Pennsylvania State University Art Museum, University Park; and Sherbayn Gallery, Chicago.