

# Adolph Vandertie (1911 - 2007)



Artists can play an important role in documenting and recognizing **marginalized** groups of people. Adolph Vandertie **immersed** himself in the culture of **hobos and tramps** and documented their culture.

Vandertie was fascinated by the stories, lifestyle, and material objects of the hobos and tramps who would pass through his hometown of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Starting in the mid-1950s, Vandertie began teaching himself hobo and tramp carving, eventually mastering the ball-in-the-cage. He created thousands of carvings, co-wrote a book about hobo and tramp carving to share his collection and teach others about the craft, and created a museum in his small home to display his artwork and collection.

## Marginalized

A group or culture of people who are treated as less important than others.

## Immerse

To be fully involved and focused on one thing for a long period of time, for example a culture or a job.

## Hobos and Tramps

Both hobos and tramps might be considered homeless. A hobo travels to look for work and a tramp travels to different places and does not want to work. There were many hobos and tramps during times when the economy was not doing well, for example during the Great Depression of the 1930s.



Artist Overview

**John Michael  
Kohler Arts Center**

Adolph Vandertie, untitled, 1976; basswood, mahogany, fabric, glass, metal, and varnish; 41 1/8 x 32 x 6 1/2 in. John Michael Kohler Arts Center Collection, gift of Kohler Foundation Inc.

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