

Art Box Artist of the Month: Barbara Fox



Barbara excelled in illustrating with her grandmothers instruction. Both her parents were prominent artists but her grandmother was an excellent portrait artist who taught Barbara more about illustrating than she would learn throughout the entirety of her career.

When Barbara began her career, female illustrators who illustrated men's fashion were unheard of. It was commonly thought that a woman could never capture the essence and true features of a man. So when Barbara's work relating to men's fashion was seen, the publishers who were interested in

Barbara Fox reflects her life in the midst of art, celebrities, and fashion.

Barbara has spent her career in art doing what most artists can only dream of. She has been an illustrator for Vogue, Henri Bendel, Top New York City Advertising Agencies, Readers Digest and many more, but she will tell you this is not what defines her art; the stories and journeys of each will captivate, and enthrall you.

Barbara can be described as a genuine lady who keeps pace with New York City's creative community. Though now a local resident and fully embracing our Florida Key's life style, she speaks with a fondness for the Society of Illustrators, Art Directors Club, Overseas Press Club, and the many places her work was shown throughout her career. Her work continues to be shown at the



Museum of American Illustration. Raised in a family of artists that can be traced back to Vigee LeBrun the famous female painter of Mary Antoinette, Bar-

her work would pass it off as the work of Robert Fox or simply make no mention to the artist at all. To Barbara it made little difference; her art was gracing store advertising and magazines throughout the fashion industry, and she was in high demand. Eventually word spread, but not without causing a scandal at Bendels, who wanted to retain her for themselves, a story you simply

have to hear her tell.

Before too long, Barbara was doing portraits from life; well known celebrities such as Barbara Walters, Mary Hemingway, Barbara DePortogo, Nan Kempner, David Halberstam, Morley Safer, Harrison Salisbury, and many others.

As her work became more known she began spending time with many affluent artists. She tells of swapping drawing strategies with Norman Rockwell and other prominent illustrators. She illustrated *The Great Gatsby* for Readers Digest as well as books by John Updike and Garson Kanin. Parson's School of Design and FIT requested Barbara to teach life classes. After interaction with her students Barbara began to love teaching as much as illustrating.



Barbara has retired to the Florida Keys and is doing portraits of people and animals as well as enjoying instructing portrait classes at The Art Box in Key Largo on Tuesday nights. Her work will be displayed at The Art Box as the featured artist of the month for February and you will have a chance to meet her and hear her stories on the third Thursday of the month at the Morada Way Art Walk in Islamorada.

Barbara's list of awards and commendations is long and inspiring, but to hear her tell of her journey is a fascinating tale of celebrities, art, and fashion.

For more information please come in and see Barbara's work at The Art Box.



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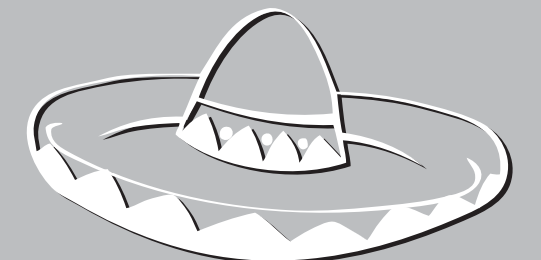


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