

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

October 2019

LOEL BARR
www.LoelBarr.com



Gathering of Men, 10 x 12, graphite

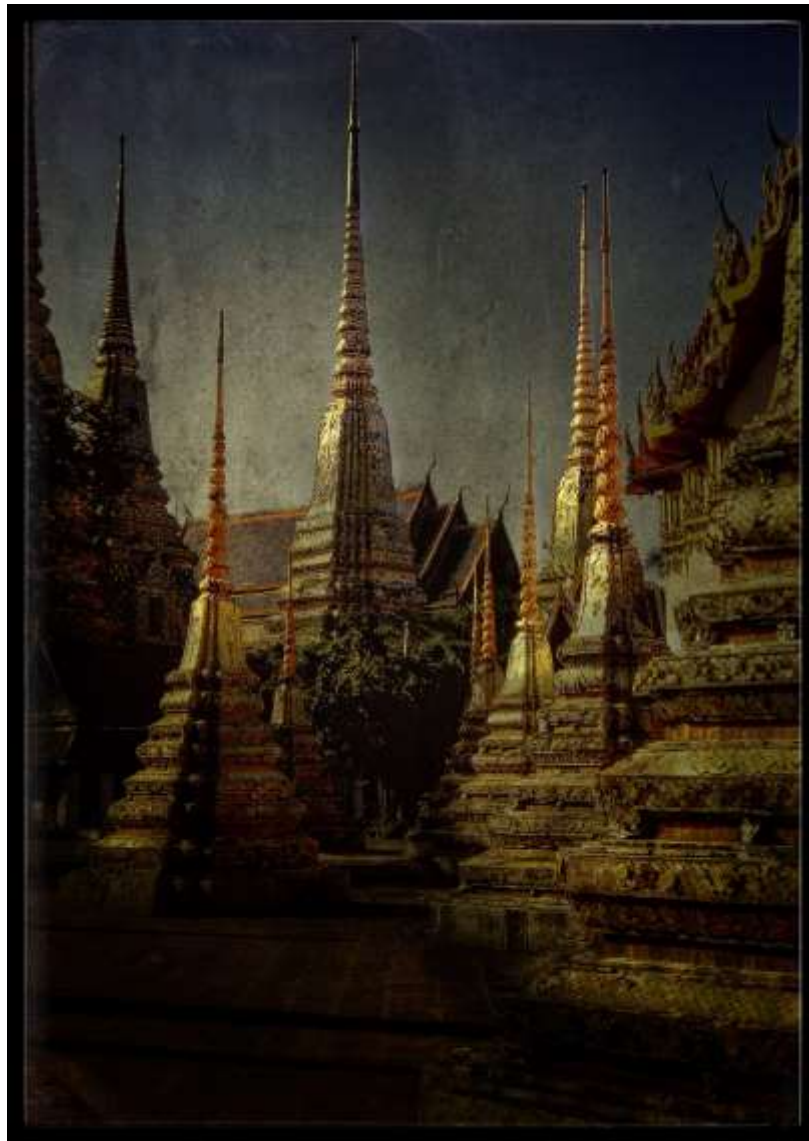
This October, The Fat Canary Journal celebrates the multi-talented artist, Loel Barr. Loel is skilled and proficient in so many artistic mediums, that it is difficult to pick a favorite. Her work is elegant and poignant, dark, quirky and compelling, while at other times lyrical and other earthly; it often speaks to days gone by. She executes this artistry through drawing, painting, collaging, constructing, photographing and computing. Often pulling from a store of material culled from extensive travels in her early life, Barr embraces a huge realm of emotions ranging from joy to melancholy. The nostalgic theme of love and abandonment runs through her work, whether portrayed through drawings of old clothing, paintings of simple forgotten scenes in life, or photographs of travels from days long ago.



Many Miles, 10 x 12, graphite

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Loel Ann Brooks Barr is a Kansas native. She received her MFA from Wichita State University while working as an illustrator for the local newspaper. She then traveled extensively and worked as an illustrator and designer in Wellington New Zealand. She spent many years in the Washington DC area, where she established a very successful career as a freelance illustrator and worked as an artist at USA Today and the Washington Post. Her freelance clients included Time-Life Books, the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and many Government departments. She also taught illustration at a nearby college. Loel continues to do some freelance work as well as focusing on her own explorations in painting, collage, drawing, and sculpture.



Bangkok, Altered Photograph

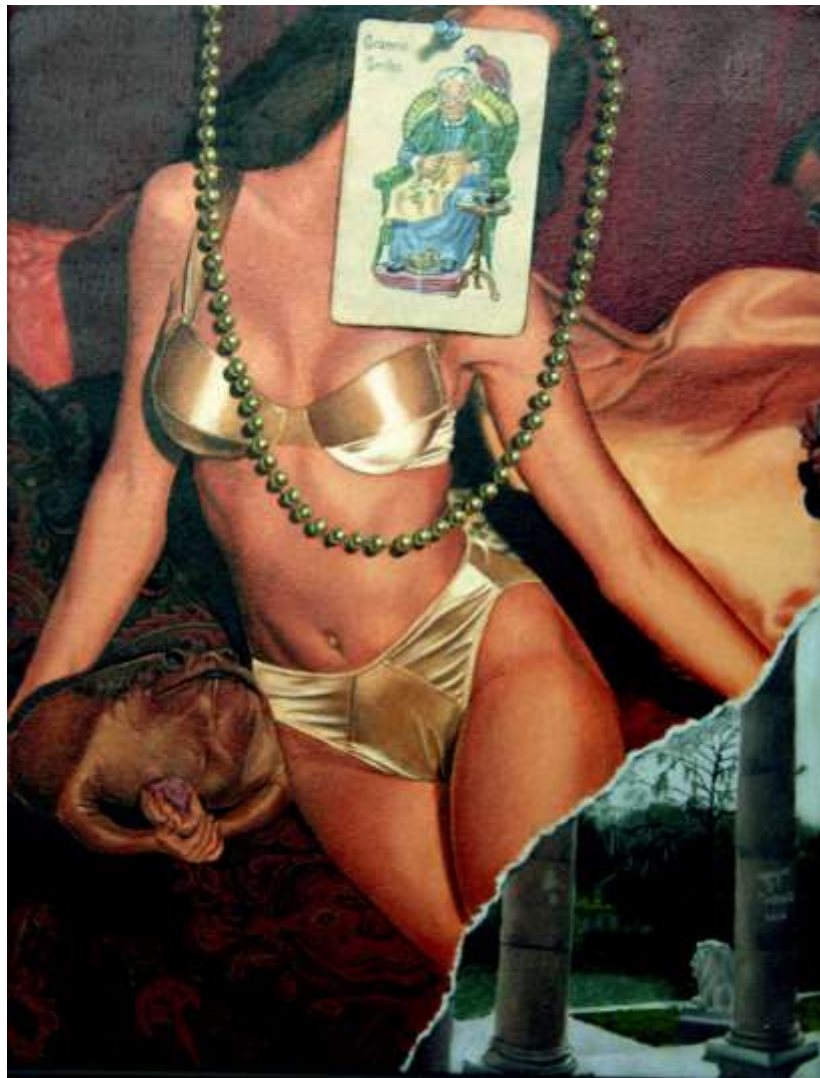
ARTIST STATEMENT

I'm an adventurer, an explorer, a watcher. I carry a sketchbook and draw in waiting rooms, airports, and restaurants. Everything and everyone has a story. I love materials; paint, paper, found objects, clay, wax, pencils, and my computer. I love playing and experimenting, moving from one medium to another, one theme to another. My current project is digital; I traveled all over the world in the 1970's and took thousands of slides, so I started looking at them out of nostalgia, with the hope of preserving them, but they were faded and damaged to the extent that it was impossible to bring back most of them to anywhere near their original state. This gave me permission to use them as raw material,



Gordon Sisters, Digital Collage

focusing on the mood and mystery of each one; much of their character comes from the viewer's glimpse into the world as it was then, exotic and distant and fascinating, without the overlay of politics. As I look into the past I give it a new life, reviving a time when each country, each village, had its own character, when the world was not homogenous. I also stared into the past in a recent series of drawings of clothing in thrift stores; the garments on the racks spent their lives against human skin, whirling on dance floors and keeping the cold out, and now they hang side by side, telling each other their stories. They have all been loved and abandoned, and as my pencil follows their patterns and folds, they murmur their tales to me. I draw them slowly, with pencil, which carries the softness and quiet of memory. I feel that I'm caressing them, smelling them, that the individuals they clothed are still breathing within and whispering to me.



Once Young, 11 x 14, oil on canvas



I frequently use collage as another gate to the past, finding old disparate images and texts that combined tell a new and unique tale. From my earliest days I've been intrigued by time, perhaps our greatest mystery; trying to capture something of it through memory. All we have other than memory itself is old photos, which fascinate me; that quick capture of a moment, the way the sun hits a jacket, a fleeting smile. The antithesis to the quick snap is drawing it slowly, methodically, giving it depth and resonance. I venture away from this theme in my explorations, but it seems I always return to it.

All that is the present will soon be in the past; as soon as we say “now” it has become history. My art seeks to explore time as it flows through us and we flow through it.



At the Lake, digital painting

LOEL A. BARR

www.loelbarr.com

SOLO EXHIBITS

- 2018 - Playing in the Dark, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2016 - Drawings, Storefront Gallery, Kingston, NY
- 2014 - Doghouse Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2013 - Oriole Nine Restaurant, Woodstock, NY
- 2012 - Joshua's Restaurant, Woodstock, NY
- 2011 - Doghouse Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2010 - Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, Woodstock, NY
- 2002 - Luna Cafe, Washington, DC

SELECT 2-4 PERSON SHOWS

- 2012 - Black and White, Van Brunt Gallery, Beacon, NY
- 2006 - Holiday Exhibit, Deborah Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY
- 2006 - Fourplay, Inquiring Mind Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2005 - Off the Wall, Inquiring Mind Gallery, Saugerties, NY
- 2004 - Collage, Inquiring Mind Gallery, Saugerties, NY

SELECT JURIED SHOWS

2019

- Abstract, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY
- Cut Pieces, Emerge Gallery Saugerties NY
- Art & Words, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY
- Exit 20, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Blanco, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

2018

Primarily Red, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Petit, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Tell Me a Story, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Fotographia, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Abstrakt, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Cut Pieces, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Art & Words, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Exit 20, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

2017

Primarily Red, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Petit, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

B &W, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Abstrakt, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Art and Words, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Metal and Wood, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Petit Deux, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

2016

Primarily Red, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Petit, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

Memento, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

The Art of Words, Emerge Gallery, Saugerties NY

2002-2015

Holiday Show, Mohonk Mountain House and Wired Gallery, New Paltz, NY

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Columbia County Art Commission Annual Exhibit, Hudson, NY

National Association of Women Artists, Women of Ulster County

Eccentric Portraits, Kleinert Gallery, Woodstock, NY (by invitation)

National Association of Women Artists, “Fennes de Vernissage,” Miami, FL
Members Exhibit, NAWA, New York, NY
National Small Works show, NAWA, New York, NY
Varga Gallery, Woodstock, NY
The Art of Memoir, Kleinert Gallery, Woodstock, NY
Artists of the Catskills, Michael Nelson Gallery, Saugerties, NY
Paste-Up 2008, The Ayer Lofts Gallery, Lowell, MA
Hudson Valley Women Outside the Box, Barrett Gallery, Poughkeepsie, NY
Watermark 08, Studio 107, Whiteville, NC
Figure Drawings, Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington, DC
Woodstock Artists Association, numerous exhibits through 2017

OTHER

Freelance Illustration, 40 year career, Washington DC, Clients include the Washington Post, Time-Life Books, National Geographic, The Smithsonian Institution, The American Red Cross, the Pentagon, the American Chemical Society, many more.

Staff artist, USA Today, 1982-84

Workshop instructor, hand-made artists' books, Woodstock School of Art

Board member, Woodstock Artists Association and Museum

Graduate, Ft Hays State University

MFA (60 hours), Wichita State University



Wednesday Lunch, digital painting