

Artist Profile – Barbara Chloe Murdoch

Local artist Barbara Chloe Murdoch is gaining recognition as one of Southwest Florida's most popular watercolor artists. Her art has been described as being colorful and imaginative; sometimes whimsical, sometimes abstract, but always unique.

Born and raised in Michigan, Barbara moved to Fort Myers in 1979. Trained as a court reporter, she continued in this career until her retirement in 2004. Throughout this time, the dream of pursuing art burned strongly in her heart. In 1992, she fulfilled that dream by taking up painting in watercolors.

Since then, she has won many awards and has had her work showcased in many one-woman shows as well as exhibiting in local juried shows. Her painting, "Rhythm of the Arts" was chosen to be the signature piece for the Edison Celebration of Art in 2009.

Barbara paints a wide variety of subjects, in many styles. Some of her most popular works have evolved into series. Her abstract series, "City Lights", is done in rich, dark reds, browns, golds and blues. They are after-dark abstract cityscapes that cause the viewer to search for the hidden mysteries which are waiting to be discovered.

The "Fishing Shack" series takes a whimsical look at a coastline dotted with colorful stilt houses while "Dancing Ladies" explores some of the activities of the fairer sex and "Jungle Scenes" reveals new discoveries each time one views the pieces.

Recently, many of Barbara's paintings have been done on Yupo, a man-made material that is almost like a sheet of plastic and allows the pigment to flow freely, producing a loose, juicy feeling to most pieces.

Barbara is known for her generosity with her talent. She regularly donates several pieces each year to such charities as Breast Cancer Awareness, The Red Cross, Arts for ACT and other fundraisers. In 2009, her donated painting was purchased by actress Sharon Stone, the celebrity auctioneer.

In the Fort Myers area, Barbara's art can be found in several galleries (and their websites) including the Art League of Fort Myers www.artleagueoffortmyers.org in the Downtown River District; Wild Child Art Gallery www.WildChildartgallery.com in Matlacha; and The Tower Gallery <http://www.towergallery-sanibel.com> in Sanibel. She can also be reached by email at barbmurdochart@aol.com

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