

Who is American Artist P. Buckley Moss?



American artist P. Buckley Moss (Pat) was born and raised on Staten Island in New York in 1933. Growing up, great importance was given to academic achievement, and both Pat's older sister and younger brother excelled in school. However, Pat did not, and she was considered hopeless. At that time, little was known about dyslexia and other learning differences, and young Patricia Buckley did not receive the help that is available to learning different students today. While the rest of the family sat around the kitchen table reading and doing homework, Pat drew pictures. Her art was both a means of escape and a form of communication.

As the years passed, Pat's artistic ability was recognized and she was blessed to be accepted to the Washington Irving High School in Manhattan, which provided a strong focus on the arts. Later, she received a scholarship to New York's prestigious Cooper Union, which is an academy for the pursuance of excellence in the arts and sciences. Pat's artistic style is unique, and she is perhaps best known for her "Valley style" watercolors of the Amish and Mennonites and tranquil landscapes. Pat began including the "Plain People" symbolically in her art soon after her husband's job took them to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the mid-1960's. There, she met Amish and Mennonites living in the area and admired their faith and dedication to family and caring for the land.

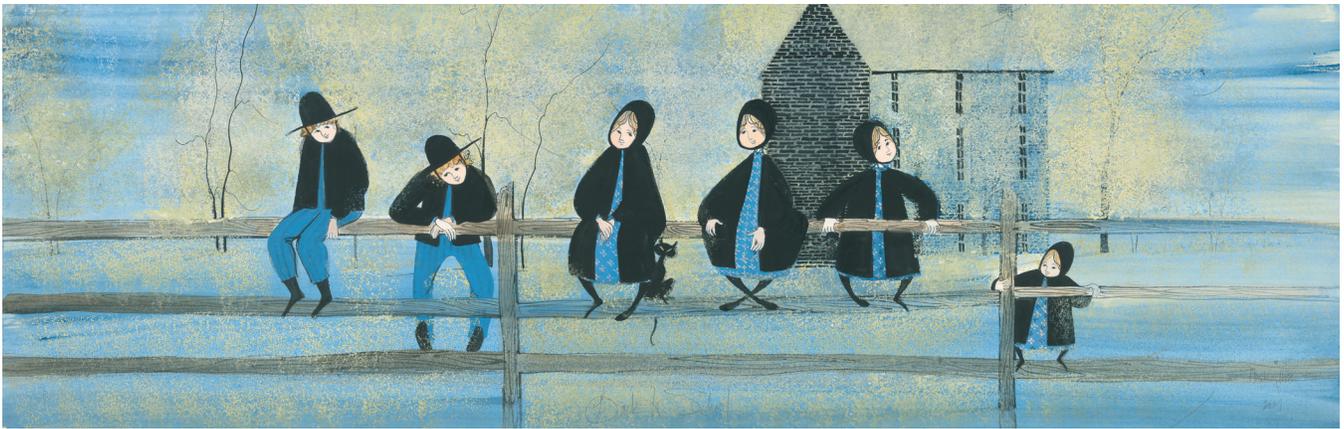


Pat Moss painting during the early 1980's.



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Pat Moss has achieved unprecedented success in the art world and has been giving back a measure of that success to the community for close to three decades. Donations of Pat's artwork have raised more than \$4 million for worthy charitable organizations across the country. In this endeavor, she is helped by the P. Buckley Moss Society, a group of more than 8,000 collector-members. She has also established the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education, which promotes the use of art in the school curriculum as an aid to reaching out to children with learning differences. While Pat's success has been recognized as an example of a triumph over dyslexia, she believes that she is successful because of it. It gives her the ability to see the world around her differently and caused her to develop a strong work ethic. Pat's motivational phrase is "Find what you're good at and love doing, and work hard at it."



Back to School

The mother of four daughters and two sons, Pat has used her art from an early age as the means of communicating her love of children and family. The piece shown above is typical of Pat's "Valley style" and is representative of the time in Pat's life when she was raising her children in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. When asked how long it takes her to complete a painting, Pat responds with her current age, stating that her paintings are influenced by all her life experiences, all the places she has been, all the people she has met, and all the things she has seen. An example of this is the influence that living part-time in both Florida and Panama had on some of her work, infusing her subjects and color palette with a distinctly tropical style. Pat does not paint the dark side of contemporary life, preferring to focus on positive images that reflect love, family, and the beauty of the world.



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Under the Sea

Pat Moss, in her art and in her life, seems to speak a language that people from all walks of life are able to understand. Talent, determination, intelligibility, a little luck, and lots of caring are all part of the Moss phenomenon. These are the attributes that constitute Moss' life and fill her art. For many who know her work and are familiar with her life and her upbeat philosophy, she truly is "The People's Artist".

Compiled by Tricia Miles, Assistant to P. Buckley Moss

P. Buckley Moss is an American and Virginia artist, whose art expresses her interest in strong family values and cultural heritage in her own distinctive style, giving us a collection of art that is filled with a lifetime of experiences. She is known as America's most celebrated living artist. She currently lives in Radford, Virginia and travels around the country to attend shows with galleries and meet her collectors and sign her work for them.



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