

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Buckley Moss" with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end. The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style.

## ***P. Buckley Moss: A Legacy Project***

### **P. Buckley Moss: Artist's Biography**

P. Buckley Moss is one of America's most prized and internationally acclaimed living artists. An alumnus of New York's prestigious *Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art*, she is a formally educated and accomplished artist, whose work is highly regarded by academics, museums and collectors alike. She works abundantly in a variety of media, including oils, acrylics, watercolor, mixed media, etchings, and giclée. Pat's style has been said to be both complex and simple. Her ability to have both such an expressive, confident line and be able to work in a loose, impressionistic/expressionistic makes her work appealing to a broad range of art world enthusiasts.

As described in his 1997 scholarly biography and retrospective catalogue about the artist, entitled, ***P. Buckley Moss: Painting the Joy of the Soul***, author Peter Rippe, H.F. du Pont Winterthur Museum fellow, and former Director of museums in Virginia and Texas, as well as the P. Buckley Moss Museum, explains this paradoxical artistic persona produces, "a select group of amazing masterpieces that deftly combine the directness of her nearly trademarked brand of abstract expressionism with the mystical evolutions of a Medieval icon."

Over the course of her almost four decades as successful commercial artist, P. Buckley Moss has received many honors, awards and accolades, both for her work as an artist, and for her philanthropic work, inspired by her dyslexia, using her art to help and support children and adults who "learn differently" as she does.

The following are some highlights of this recognition over the years: The late Charles Kuralt interviewed her in 1988 for his *On the Road* television series and dubbed her "The People's Artist." In 1997, Pat received the President's Citation from Cooper Union. This citation qualified her for inclusion in the Cooper Union Hall of Fame, created in 2009 to mark the institution's 150th Anniversary. In 1992 Pat received a Citation from First Lady Barbara Bush recognizing her contributions to learning disabled children and that same year she was featured in a PBS Documentary "Split the Wind" which chronicled her life and art. In 2003, Senator George Allen read Pat's biography on the Senate Floor, thereby making her history part of the Congressional Record. In 2008, "The Lady Behind the Brush", WVPT-TV's documentary about Pat's life and her art was aired on public television and released as a DVD.

Patricia Buckley was born on May 20th, 1933, in the Staten Island, New York. She was the second of three children of an Irish/American-Sicilian marriage. In grade school, young Patricia was perceived as a poor student, a circumstance attributable to her dyslexia which, especially at that time, was not well understood as a learning difficulty or as a reading and perceptual "disorder." Nonetheless, one of her teachers determined that this little girl, who was labeled, "Not Proficient in Anything," was artistically gifted. This outside

opinion helped to convince Pat's mother to enroll her daughter in an extraordinary public school for girls in downtown Manhattan- the Washington Irving High School for the Fine Arts. It was there, in what obviously was a friendly learning environment, that Pat's artistic abilities were finally encouraged and seriously nourished. With the coaching of her teachers and the unconditional support of the school's principal, Mary Meade, (sister of the famous anthropologist, Margaret Meade), Pat created her first art portfolio and began to thrive.

Besides her remarkable mother, she was also deeply influenced by her paternal grandfather who had great faith in her and instilled in Pat the unshakable belief that she could accomplish anything she set out to do, and accomplish it well.

In 1951 Pat received a scholarship to New York's Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. She studied at this prestigious art school for four years and specialized in fine arts and graphic design. Known for its intellectual rigor, the time spent at Cooper Union encouraged Pat to seek a more personal expression of her ideas through her art. The intense study, discussions and exchanges with professors and fellow students expanded Pat's artistic horizons and gave birth to her unique style, which is freely expressive and often rich in symbolism. During these years, philosophy, especially the teachings and writings of St. Thomas Aquinas, and her deep personal religious faith, became dominant influences in Pat's work, along with Modernism (particularly French Impressionism and German Expressionism) and academic Medievalism.

In 1964 Pat's husband's work took the family, by then five children with a sixth child on the way, to Waynesboro in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It was here that she came to appreciate the quiet beauty of rural scenery and to know the picturesque and deeply religious Amish and Mennonite "plain" people. Soon she was incorporating these new elements into her art, creating an impetus that revitalized her artistic career and reignited her ambitions.

In 1967 she won her first major art show award - a one-person show at a local gallery. The show was a critical and financial success and encouraged Pat to start seriously creating and marketing her work. P. Buckley Moss' career continued to develop during the 80's and 90's and along with it came the establishment of the gallery and P. Buckley Moss Society networks which help promote and disseminate her work nationally and internationally.

Pat's dyslexia and her high level of determination and success, puts her in the same company with other highly notable people and role models, such as the actor/producer Henry Winkler, the Olympic swimmer Greg Louganis, the late governor Nelson Rockefeller, actor Tom Cruise, singer/actress Cher, and basketball great Magic Johnson. Like many with a learning disability, Pat is highly perceptive and sensitive, and has an uncanny ability to communicate deeply with people through her art.

Having achieved both critical and popular success at this stage in her career, Pat began to closely integrate her philanthropic focus on learning disabled children and adults into her work. She has become a role model for the learning impaired and is frequently asked to speak to special education

classes in schools around the country, relating her experiences and inspiring others to overcome their difficulties and develop their personal talents to their highest potential. Pat began to donate original works and prints to various children's charities and other organizations whose mission mirrored her own passionate interest in this area. These donations and collaborations have raised millions of dollars for many of these charities. In 1987 a group of dedicated collectors of Pat's work established the P. Buckley Moss Society to assist the artist and her family in all of their philanthropic endeavors.

### **The Moss Foundation for Children's Education: Mission**

The P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education ([www.mossfoundation.org](http://www.mossfoundation.org)) was established by the P. Buckley Moss Society in 1995, to preserve and perpetuate the artistic and philanthropic legacy of this pre-eminent living artist. To help realize P. Buckley Moss' desire to incorporate the arts as a powerful learning tool into the classroom, the Foundation secures individual and corporate donations to financially support its operations and programs.

To fulfill its programmatic mission, The P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education, a certified 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, assists teachers and schools with the promotion and the integration of the arts into all educational programs, with a special focus on children who "learn in different ways."

The Foundation's goals and objectives are as follows: to provide a forum for sharing innovative methods of art-based education and disseminate these methods nationally and internationally; to create publications that aid in the

integration of arts into the academic curriculum; to form collaborative relationships with arts and education-based organizations; to recognize teachers who creatively and effectively incorporate arts into their academic classroom programs; and to develop and conduct art education programs for young children to introduce the arts into their early educational experience.

### **The P. Buckley Moss Museum**

In 1989, the P. Buckley Moss Museum opened in Waynesboro, Virginia. Its focus is to record and illuminate the Moss artistic phenomenon through educational exhibitions, lectures, permanent collections and archival files. Pat Moss' development as a person and as an artist is a story that is illustrated in the permanent exhibition filling the Museum's main gallery as visitors are exposed to some of the best examples of her artistic creativity. Today the Museum attracts over 45,000 visitors per year.

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## ***P. Buckley Moss: Honors, Awards, Recognition***

- 1976:** 1st Place, National Arts & Crafts Exhibit, Washington, DC.
- 1984:** Commendation from the House and the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 1985:** Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts Retrospective Exhibition.
- 1985:** Indianapolis Children's Museum Exhibition.
- 1986:** Americana Artist of the Year, International Wildlife, Western and Americana Show, Chicago.
- 1986:** Honorary Doctorate of Fine Art, Centenary College, New Jersey.
- 1986:** Cultural Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 1986/1991:** Consecutive "International Plate Show Awards"; '86, "Wedding Joy"; '87, "The Christening"; '89, "Hello Grandma"; '90, "Family Reunion"; '90, "The Wedding"; '91, "Tender hands."
- 1987:** Mammography Unit at Warren Memorial Hospital, (Virginia) named the P. Buckley Moss Ward.
- 1987:** "Honorary Tar Heel," awarded by the Governor of North Carolina.
- 1988:** Commendation from the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 1988:** Commendation from the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan.
- 1988:** "Sagamore of the Wabash Award" presented by the Governor of Indiana.
- 1988:** Conferred Title of Special Honorary Citizen of Takamatsu, Japan.
- 1989:** The Nittany Lion Award, Penn State University, Pennsylvania.

- 1989:** "Honorary Kentucky Colonel," appointed by the Governor of Kentucky.
- 1989:** Sight-Saving Chairman for the VA Affiliate of the National Society to Prevent Blindness.
- 1990:** Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Angel Award, Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida.
- 1990:** Tokyo, Japan: Metropolitan Museum One Person Exhibition.
- 1990:** Humanitarian of the Year Award, presented at the annual convention of the Indiana LDA.
- 1991:** Citation, White House Points of Light Office.
- 1991:** "Woman of the Year": Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority.
- 1992:** Citation from First Lady Barbara Bush: re. Moss' contributions to learning disabled children.
- 1992:** PBS Documentary *"Split the Wind"* about P. Buckley Moss and her art.
- 1993:** Learning Disabilities Association of America Documentary Video, "A Picture of Success."
- 1993:** Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.
- 1994:** Designated Easter at the White House Program Artist.
- 1995:** Included in Carrie Chapman Catt Plaza of Heroines at Iowa State University: *"P. Buckley Moss, The People's Artist. Through her peaceful artistry we see life as it should be. Through her philanthropic contribution to the welfare of children we see a model to emulate. We honor Pat*

*for her significant contribution to make our world a better place."*

**1995:** Kermezaar Keynote Artist, El Paso, Texas: October Arts Festival Honoree.

**1995:** P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education established.

**1996:** Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia

**1996:** Distinguished Virginian Award, Virginia Association of Broadcasters

**1997:** Living Artist Exhibition, March-September, Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences.

**1997:** Publication of *"Painting the Joy of the Soul."*, by Peter Rippe

**1998:** Golden Key Award, Daughters of the American Revolution.

**1998:** Artist for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Arts Center of Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

**1999:** Virginia Chamber of Commerce Diamond Award.

**2000:** Italian-American Woman of the Year Award presented by the Italian-American Women of Today (UADO)

**2002:** First recipient of the Pinnacle Award presented by the International Dyslexia Association.

**2002:** Recognition by The Learning Disabilities Association of Virginia in appreciation for her tireless efforts to raise awareness of learning disabilities.

**2003:** Woman of Distinction Award presented by Girl Scouts of Suncoast Council, Tampa, Florida.

**2003:** Senator George Allen read Pat's biography on the Senate Floor, thereby making her history part of the Congressional Record.

**2004:** Received the Margaret Sue Copenhaver Contribution to Education Award from

Roanoke College, Roanoke, Virginia.

**2004:** Received an Honorary Doctorate for Public Service from Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

**2005:** Commendation from the House and Senate of Virginia for her support of the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education.

**2005:** Resolution of Appreciation for Supporting Fine Arts Education in Virginia from the Virginia Department of Education.

**2007:** Thursday's Child, a play inspired by Pat's life, debuted at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

**2008:** One of eight honorees selected by The Library of Virginia for its 2008 Virginia Women in History Award.

2008: *The Lady Behind the Brush*, WVPT-W's documentary about Pat's life and her art was aired on public television and released as a DVD.

**2008:** Received the Opening Doors Award from The Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (ACLD) of Greater Pittsburgh for her "tireless work in support of children and adults with specific learning disabilities."

**2008:** Received an award from the Virginia Council for Exceptional Children for her commitment to special education.

**2009:** Received a Certificate of Recognition from Iowa Governor Chester J. Culver, proclaiming her an Honorary Iowan

Also to be included in Press Kit:

Recent Press: (and other)

[\*Northeast Journal: Artist Profile, P. Buckley Moss\*](#)

[\*Kingsport Times-News: Noted painter P. Buckley Moss inspired by Kingsport\*](#)

[\*The News Virginia: P Buckley Moss' life to be aired on WVPT\*](#)

[\*Omaha World-Herald: Sarpy County shrine gives artist inspiration\*](#)

[\*ONE Magazine: artView, News and notes from the local art scene\*](#)

*The Japan Times & The Daily Yomiuri: Reviews of the Exhibition of Paintings that toured Japan*