

HAVE WE MET?

March 6 – March 29, 2025

Box Spring Gallery, Philadelphia, PA 19122

About HAVE WE MET?

2nd Thursday Reception: March 13, 6–9pm; Exhibition Duration: March 6 – March 29, 2025

Crane Arts, 1400 N. American St, #100C, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Open Hours: Thurs–Sats 1–6pm, or by appointment by emailing contact@boxspringgallery.com.

Have we met before? Do you know me? Would you like to know me? Would you like to know my story?

Portraits provide a nice balance of familiarity, imagination, and intrigue. Regarding the most famous portrait of all, filmmaker Stanley Kubrick says, “How could we possibly appreciate the *Mona Lisa* if Leonardo had written at the bottom of the canvas ‘The lady is smiling because she is hiding a secret from her lover.’ This would shackle the viewer to reality...”

Have We Met? invites the public to see familiar faces and meet new acquaintances. The artworks are colorful and full of expression, just like what we look for in potential best friends. A successful abstract portrait is interesting enough to evoke the viewer’s curiosity about the subject, and question the intention of the artist. The viewer can be (literally) faced with “Have we met?” if specific visual attributes remind us of an old boss, a weird uncle, or the dearly departed, for example.



The artists in this exhibition experiment with unconventional color combinations and materials. Imposing characteristics are featured, like the big eyes and strong sideways glance of *Janice* by Linda Lou Horn. Or the work might be inspired by a meaningful story and then abstracted. Barbara Shelly provides narrative clues with collaged texts from newspaper clippings. She finds the most interesting stories from reading obituaries of people she would have otherwise never known about, and creates a vibrant reimagining of the personality. Dolores Poacelli’s collaged portraits are selections from a larger series entitled *Heads of State*, where the mostly faceless portraits in neckties are meant to represent those with power, but could just as easily be the familiar “man on the street.” Barbara Shelly states, “The intentional and unintentional relationships to the subjects emerge in the finished work and leave room for the viewer’s interpretations.” The solution, especially in collage, is completion and correction to what the viewer wants the image, or the new friend, to be.



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LINDA LOU HORN @lindalouhorn

Artist Statement

A portrait, what someone looks like, is never the essence. As an intuitive painter, I am searching for the inner likeness, the truth. I am interested in the expressive emotional self as experienced in the present moment.

I am inspired and influenced by the expressionists and gestalt theory, the use of strong color, distorted forms, exaggerated lines, and the here and now. I grew up in a time, a culture and a family where anything other than the expression of “I’m fine” was unacceptable.

My slightly abstracted figures/faces carry a sense of life and authenticity and speaks to our universal human desire to feel alive. The paintings tell a story without an utterance of a single word. I invite the viewer to engage in a kind of storytelling, promoting emotional response and enabling identification and conversation.

The pieces here are a very small part of *Cast of Characters*, a very large collection of two- and three-dimensional expressive works.

Biography

Philadelphia resident Linda Lou Horn is a mixed media artist known for her expressive works on paper, in fiber, and as found object and clay figurative sculptures. Wanting to fulfill a childhood desire, she began her artistic journey after the age of fifty.

Primarily self taught, Horn’s professional education was in nursing and gestalt psychotherapy. She believes her forty-plus years as a nurse, social activist and psychotherapist has influenced her interest in expressionism as depicted in her expressive paintings of the face.

Recent solo shows have been at Philadelphia Magic Gardens, St. Asaph’s and Boston Street Gallery in Philadelphia.



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DOLORES POACELLI poacellifineart.com / [@poacelli](https://www.instagram.com/poacelli)

Artist Statement

The *Heads of State* series is a sharp but whimsical exploration of the faces behind the power. The mixed emotions (pomposity to doubt) created by collaged features and layers of acrylic paint, are steeped in human character. They are essence and satire. This is a small group of a very large series that I would do between abstract works.

Biography

Dolores Poacelli has worked in an art studio in the heart of the Italian Market in Philadelphia for more than thirty years. Among many awards, in both 2024 and 2011 she was the recipient of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship for Painting, and in 2000 awarded the Samuel Fleisher Challenge Exhibit in Philadelphia.

Poacelli's work has been exhibited widely and is part of many public and private collections such as SAP Software, Germany; Bank of America, DE; Cooper Anderson Hospital, Camden, NJ; New York Presbyterian Children's Hospital, NYC; Park Towne Place, Philadelphia; Liberty Properties, Malvern, PA; Murano Condominiums, Philadelphia; Psychology Department of Princeton University, NJ; and the State of New Jersey.

Poacelli studied at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and Fleisher Art Memorial, and has worked for many years as a graphic designer. She has been teaching art for fourteen years at Perkins Center for the Arts.



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BARBARA SHELLY *barbarashellyart.com / @shellybarbara*

Artist Statement

I come from a long line of activists and art lovers. My grandmother was in the Red Army in Russia, immigrated to Philadelphia and marched with the suffragettes. My mother was a Democratic committee woman in a Republican neighborhood in the suburbs of Philadelphia. My art reflects and represents current events in performing arts and politics. People in the news inspire me, their movement, their expression, their passion for change. There is an emotional part of me in every painting.

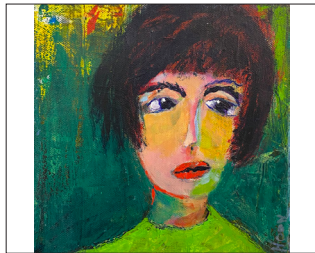
Biography

Barbara Shelly is a self-taught mixed media artist. She literally and figuratively tears through the print media, layering it into textured collages using sketches, newspaper, ink and paint. Her creative instincts place the images, covering some for texture and highlighting others. The intentional and unintentional relationships to the subjects emerge in the finished work and leave room for the viewer's interpretations. Her love of the performing arts has been rewarded by her paintings finding their way to her subjects including Spike Lee and Stella Abrera of American Ballet Theatre. Most recently, her painting *Doja Cat* was part of the *Empower Her Art Forum*, a multinational exhibition dedicated to raising women's voices and the empowering ethos of art, at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo, Egypt.

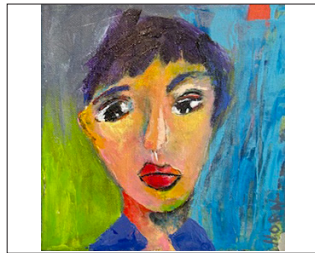
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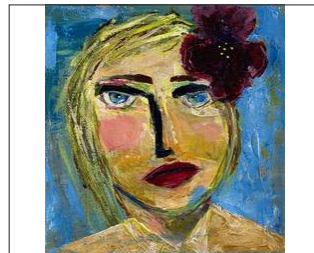
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Linda Lou Horn
Shiela
acrylic on cradled canvas
8"x 8"x 1.5"
\$175



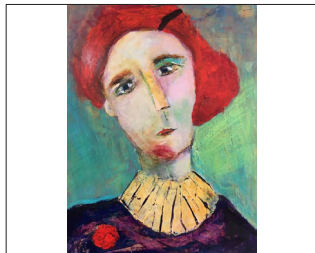
Linda Lou Horn
Rita
acrylic on cradled canvas
8"x 8"x 1.5"
\$175



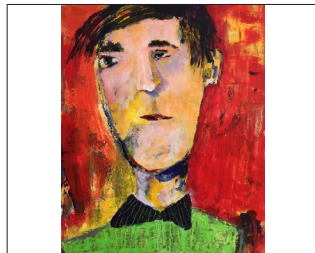
Linda Lou Horn
Florence
acrylic on cradled canvas
8"x 8"x 1.5"
\$175



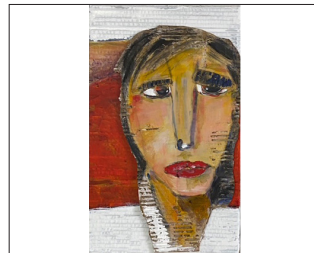
Linda Lou Horn
Janice
acrylic on cradled canvas
8"x 8"x 1.5"
\$175



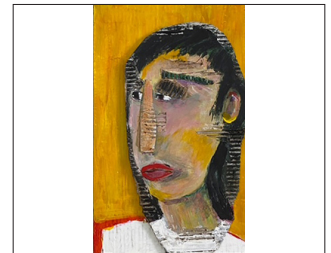
Linda Lou Horn
Vera
acrylic on masonite
20"x 16"
\$250



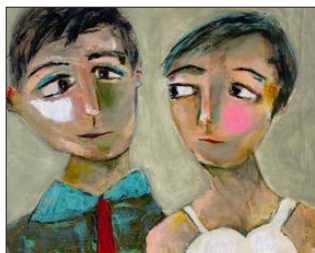
Linda Lou Horn
Frank
acrylic on masonite
20"x 16"
\$250



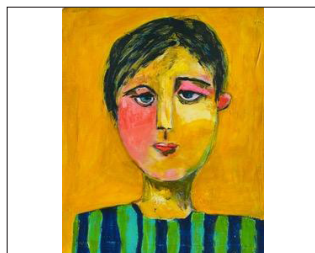
Linda Lou Horn
Flo
charcoal and acrylic
on cardboard
20"x 12"
\$200



Linda Lou Horn
Bev
charcoal and acrylic
on cardboard
20"x 12"
\$200



Linda Lou Horn
Thoughts Only
acrylic on recycled
silk screen
20"x 24"x 1.5"
\$450

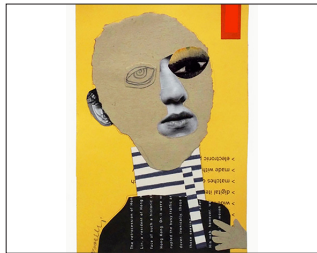


Linda Lou Horn
Hear Me Now
acrylic on recycled
silk screen
24"x 20"x 1.5"
\$450

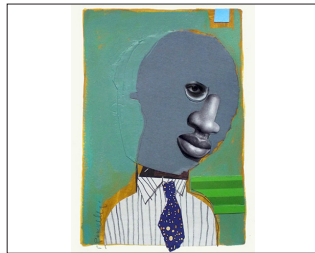
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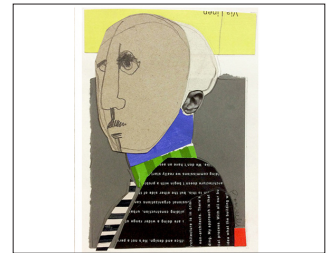
Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State #7
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State #9
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



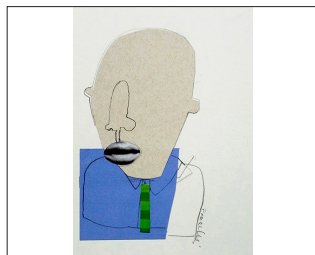
Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State #11
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State #12
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



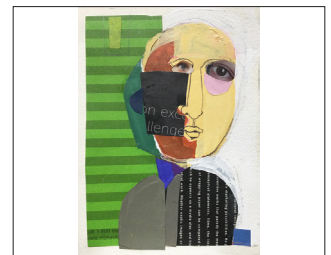
Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State #28
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



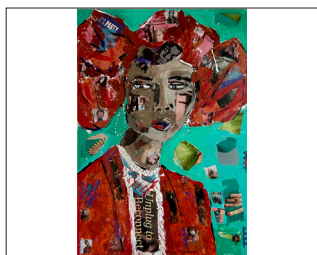
Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State #41
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



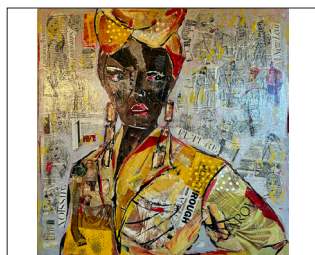
Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State, Pink Tie
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



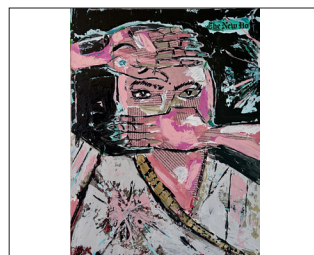
Dolores Poacelli
Heads of State, Green Stripes
acrylic and collage
7"x 5" (12"x 9")
\$150



Barbara Shelly
Vogue
mixed media
31"x 21"
\$1,100



Barbara Shelly
Vogue 4
mixed media
24"x 24"
\$1,150



Barbara Shelly
Mahak
mixed media
18"x 14"
\$750



Barbara Shelly
Michael K
mixed media
20"x 24"
\$1,050

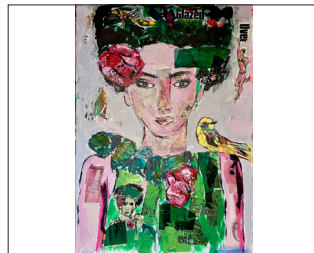
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Barbara Shelly
The Messenger
mixed media
27" x 21"
\$1,150



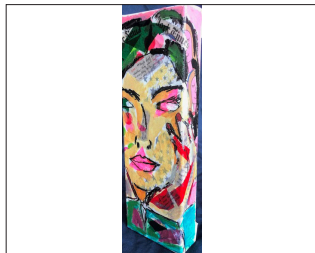
Barbara Shelly
Girl with a Bird
mixed media
36" x 20"
\$1,350



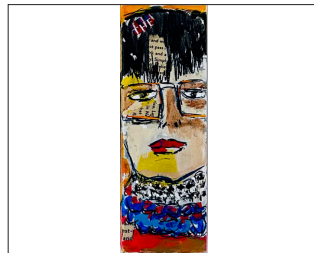
Barbara Shelly
Andy
mixed media
12" x 12"
\$550



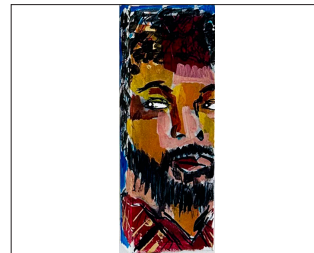
Barbara Shelly
West Side Story
mixed media
12" x 12"
\$550



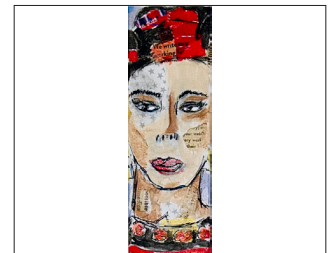
Barbara Shelly
My Body
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



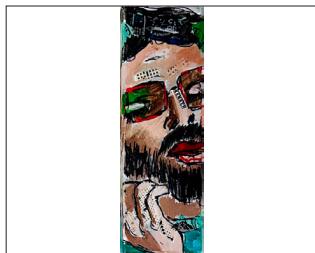
Barbara Shelly
I'm Cool
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



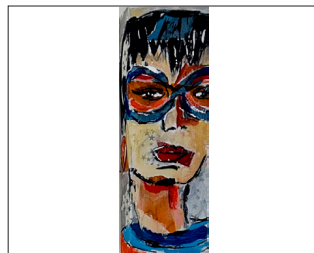
Barbara Shelly
Ahmir
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



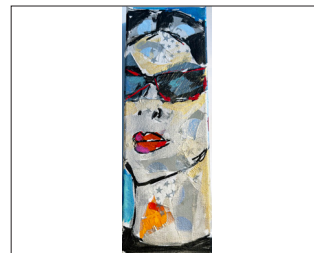
Barbara Shelly
Muxes
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



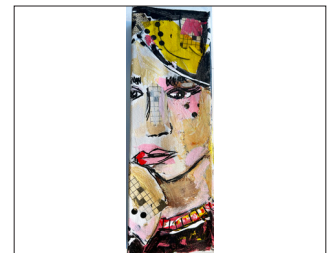
Barbara Shelly
Julius
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



Barbara Shelly
Gentle Monster
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



Barbara Shelly
Sunnei
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



Barbara Shelly
Anita
mixed media
12" x 4" x 1.5"
\$350



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BOX SPRING GALLERY is the collaborative effort of Gaby Heit and Robert A. Stewart, Esq.

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Celebrating where art and design meet, Box Spring Gallery provides carefully curated exhibitions with opportunities to purchase contemporary art and design by a variety of creatives.

Box Spring Gallery aims to be an outlet for new audience visibility, educational exchange and cross-disciplinary discourse. Our main goals are to provide creatives with opportunities, guidance, and to educate the consumer public. We strive to show a wide range of creative discipline, innovation and purpose, and look to collaborate with like-minded partners.

GABY HEIT gabyheit.com / [@gabyheit](https://www.instagram.com/gabyheit) / gaby@gabyheit.com

Gaby Heit is an art/photo director, graphic designer and creative consultant with a master's degree from Pratt Institute. A four-time gallery director and independent curator, Gaby has represented artists from Philadelphia and New York, and has produced numerous exhibitions that celebrate connections between fine art, science, and design. Some include shows for Le Méridien Hotel, Main Line Health, AIGA, DesignPhiladelphia, Philly Tech Week, the University City Science Center, and more.

With many years of experience in print publishing, she has led the creative direction, rebranding and design for national magazines covering fashion, travel, women's services, business, and fine art. Gaby regularly consults with all kinds of creatives on presentation, organization and self-promotion, and her latest project was to open Box Spring Gallery in Philadelphia in June 2024.

ROBERT A. STEWART, Esq.

Robert is a long-time resident of Philadelphia and the husband of artist, Michele M. Tremblay, who passed away in 2022. As a college student he had the good fortune to attend art education classes at the Barnes Foundation in Merion taught by Violette De Mazia and Barton Church. Robert's first art purchase, made in 1973, was an oil painting by Edwin Brent and later he and his wife Michele acquired works by Roger Anliker, Charles Schmidt, Marie Bender, George Sorrels, Carol Oldenburg, Dan Wittels and Roberta Daar. His late wife's work can be viewed online at artofmichele.com, as well as a large mural opposite the entrance to Jefferson Hospital on 9th Street in Philadelphia, which Michele created with New York artist Polly Apfelbaum.