

# MANHATTAN ARTS INTERNATIONAL

We promote artistic excellence through curated art programs and juried exhibitions.

## Greetings!



Pastel painting by Barbara Rachko, Featured Artist of the Week.

### Dear Subscriber and Art Enthusiast,

Artist **Barbara Rachko** epitomizes our definition of achieving artistic excellence -- both creatively and in her extraordinary 30+ year art career. Her compelling and powerful pastel paintings have received international acclaim and it is an honor to present her as the Manhattan Arts International Featured Artist of the Week. Read more about her below.

## Personal Narratives in Pastel on Sandpaper

American contemporary artist Barbara Rachko divides her time between residences in New York City and Alexandria, VA. The internationally exhibited artist is best known for her pastel-on-sandpaper paintings, her compelling eBook, "From Pilot to Painter," (available on Amazon.com), and her unique and popular blog, "Barbara Rachko's Colored Dust."



"PROPHECY," SOFT PASTEL ON SANDPAPER, 58" X 38" IMAGE, 70" X 50" FRAMED.

The artist creates one-of-a-kind pastel-on-sandpaper paintings that combine reality and fantasy and depict personal narratives. Her paintings are bold, vibrant, and unique.

When writing about the artist New York critic Peter Delloio remarked, "It is undeniable that, like de Chirico, Barbara Rachko has created a unique, original, and very private landscape."



"VICEROY," SOFT PASTEL ON SANDPAPER, 26" X 20" IMAGE, 35" X 28.5" FRAMED

In a featured article about the artist arts writer Ann Landi praised her work and stated, "Rachko knows how to set up a composition using pattern and shadow, light and dark, high-keyed color and subtle tones in such a way that the whole ensemble works together without becoming claustrophobic."

She added, "Rachko's antecedents are not in the folk art traditions of the cultures she studies and embraces, but rather in the sophisticated strategies of Henry Matisse (who was a master at mixing patterns) and Edgar Degas (who exploited the power of oblique angles and cropped figures)."



"ACOLYTES," SOFT PASTEL ON SANDPAPER, 38" X 58" IMAGE, 50" X 70" FRAMED

Barbara exhibits nationally and internationally and has won many awards during her more than 30 year career as a professional artist. Her many exhibitions include: Art Basel Hong Kong, represented by Studio 26 Gallery, New York, NY; the 2017 Miami River Art Fair, Miami, FL, represented by Dr. Barbara Aust-Wegemund, Art Historian; and the Art Below Regent's Park and Le Dame Gallery — both in London, England.

Shown here are five pieces from the artist's current series, "Bolivianos," which is arguably Rachko's strongest and most striking work to date. About this series the artist explains, "While traveling in Bolivia last spring, I visited a mask exhibition at the National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore in La Paz. The masks were presented against black walls, were spot-lit, and looked eerily like 3D versions of my 'Black Paintings' series. I immediately knew I had stumbled upon a gift."



"SHAMANIC," SOFT PASTEL ON SANDPAPER, 26" X 20" IMAGE, 35" X 28.5" FRAMED

The artist was interviewed by Brainard Carey for Yale radio WYBC and many publications including an interview on Follow magazine. Dr. Lisa Paul Streitfeld, Kulturindustrie theorist and critic, recently wrote an essay about her work on the Hermeneutics of New Modernism blog.

She is a recipient of a Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation award, and grants from the Templar Trust in Lichtenstein. She was selected for a fellowship to the New York School of Art Independent Study Program and was nominated for the Freedom to Create Prize, Singapore.



"DANZANTE," SOFT PASTEL ON SANDPAPER, 38" X 58" IMAGE, 50" X 70" FRAMED

Barbara Rachko was featured as the Traditional Artist Spotlight winning artist for the month of October 2018 on the Fusion Art website with 20 works of art by the artist.

She is also featured on the Galleria Banditto website and on the cover and pages 14 – 15 of ABC Latino magazine.

She was featured in an exclusive 18-page interview in the July (Issue # 44) "Art Market International Magazine." Her article is sandwiched between one about the Metropolitan Museum of Art and another about the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Barbara learned to fly at the age of 25 and became a commercial pilot and Boeing-727 flight engineer before joining the Navy. As a Naval officer she spent many years working at the Pentagon and retired as a Commander.

On 9/11 Barbara's life was changed forever when her husband, Dr. Bryan C. Jack, was killed on the plane that hit the Pentagon. She wrote an inspirational article about her loss, courage and healing journey through art on [The Healing Power of ART & ARTISTS](#) website.

#### Updates About Barbara Rachko



Barbara Rachko is featured in an exclusive 18-page interview in the July (Issue # 44) "Art Market International Magazine." Her article is sandwiched between one about the Metropolitan Museum of Art and another about the Whitney Museum of American Art. Photo credit: Izzy Nova.

She was in a group exhibition "Worlds Seen & Unseen" with four other women artists at Westbeth Gallery, 55 Bethune Street, NYC, March 29 through April 20. She opened her studio to the public in March as a participant in the High Line Open Studios.

The artist was also featured in terrific interview published on the Arts Row website "From Pilot to Pentagon to Painter: The Remarkable Life of Artist, Barbara Rachko".

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Visit Barbara Rachko's website <http://barbararachko.art>

Visit her blog <http://barbararachkoscoloreddust.com>

Barbara's wikipedia biography [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara\\_Rachko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Rachko).

#### Join Barbara Rachko on Social Media

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