

“An Iteration: Peters/Waterman-Peters”

Larry Peters and Barbara Waterman-Peters discuss each other’s work:

Barbara is masterful in the content and various media of painting and drawing. Her subject matter is not the usual of most painters in the area being that it is figurative and vaguely narrative. Her ability in the arts is one of the first things that attracted me to her.

Larry’s work is a source of constant surprise and joy to me. He continually experiments with variations on a few themes and yet manages to make each effort fresh. Watching him work over the years, steadfast and dedicated to his vocabulary has been an inspiration. His work, whether in ceramics, sculpture or mixed media collage, is timeless. We have influenced each other, but always in a positive, exciting way.

Artists’ Statements

Twenty-five years have passed since I started My Women Series. It has undergone obvious changes from its first incarnation as dream-like imagery to its present rather strange naturalism.

I utilize archetypes to tell my story. My understanding of them has come after years of research. I tap into millennia of wisdom, mythology, proverb, fairy tale and religion. With WOMAN as my focus, I project through a feminist lens, examining everything.

The women have slowly taken on more humanity although they sometimes hide behind make-up and costumes. Odd, inexplicable events pull them together.

The paintings and drawings have become less strident; the issues are now less overt. My voice is no longer shrill; my colors are softer. Humor even makes an occasional appearance. While the vocabulary remains the same, the mystery and enigma are now more subtle.

Recently, I have taken on another subject: MAN. Exploring men’s issues is opening up a whole new mode of thinking which is exciting and challenging. I have put aside my feminist viewpoint to truly look at this opposite gender.

The jack-in-the-box showed up in my work years ago and has maintained its presence in various incarnations, including the “Boxed Saints” Series. It represents surprise, shock, fear and apprehension as well as a hiding place. The crow appears frequently and is a totemic, positive element in my work.

My current series, called “Ship of Fools,” examines larger issues of our social, political and environmental milieu. **BW-P**

I work in two media, switching back and forth from functional and sculptural ceramics to mixed media collage. Most of the functional ceramics are in the form of bowls, bottles and covered jars. The new series of “Fetish Jars” incorporate birds as lid handles and provide a wonderful surface on which to explore various ideas. The jars range in size from tiny to those more than two feet high. It has been interesting to see the range of possibilities within the jar form while I work with both stoneware and porcelain. The mixed media collages are tied to the “Holocaust”. Even works not titled within the subject are visually related by using a similar palette. The inspiration for all of this work comes from readings on the “Holocaust.” **LDP**