

P Buckley Moss

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The People's Artist

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Winter Royalty



"Pat" Moss autographing one of her books at the P. Buckley Moss Museum.

Above painting: *Valley Thaw*

Facing page painting: *Flowers on Red*

Preceding page painting: *Winter Royalty*

The Spirit of a True Artist

It is said that artists of all media try to make their art express not just what the world is, but what they wish it to be. If that's true, then P. Buckley Moss is an artist. Yes, she paints, but she is also an artist of the soul. True artists form their work with their personalities – they use art to say what they have to say. She states plainly that her intent is to express "the ancient proposition of the triumph of beauty and truth over injustice," declaring that she "paints the hope of the future... that seeds positive thoughts of love, family and the beauty of the world."

Born Patricia Buckley in 1933 in the Richmond Borough of New York City to an Irish-American father and Sicilian-American mother, she was a gregarious youth; daring and athletic, even somewhat of a tomboy. However, her formative school years were less than remarkable. In fact, as a young girl she was considered a poor student. This was likely due to her dyslexia, a reading disorder many are familiar with today, but the clinical study of which was not undertaken until the 1950s. Fortunately, one of her teachers noticed her artistic ability, encouraging her mother to enroll her in Manhattan's Washington Irving High School for the Fine Arts. Next, she continued her art studies by winning a scholarship to the prestigious Cooper Union, from which she graduated in 1955 with a degree in Fine Arts and Graphic Design.



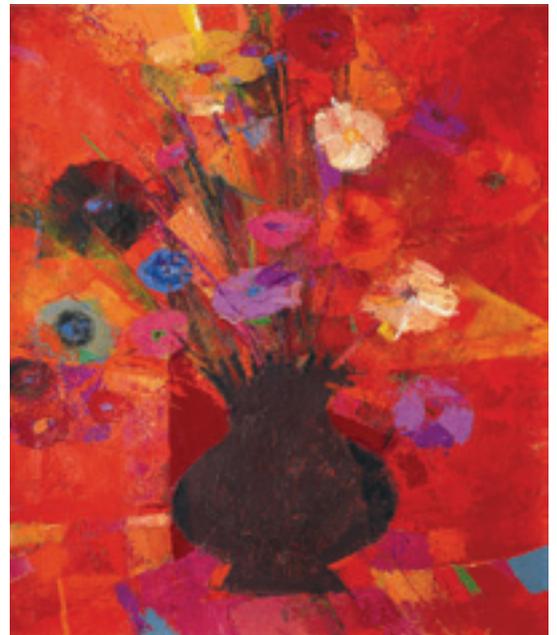
Nine years later, her husband's work took Pat and her five children (with another on the way) to Waynesboro, VA, in the Shenandoah Valley. Artists paint what they see, and suddenly skyscrapers and concrete sidewalks were replaced by lush green fields and smoky blue mountains. Appreciative of the rural beauty of the land and impressed with the hard-working, deeply-religious Amish and Mennonite people, she began incorporating these many new elements into her art. Preferring to work late into the night while her children slept nearby, she further developed the stylized and impressionistic nature of her art that combines to make her paintings so extremely accessible to so many.

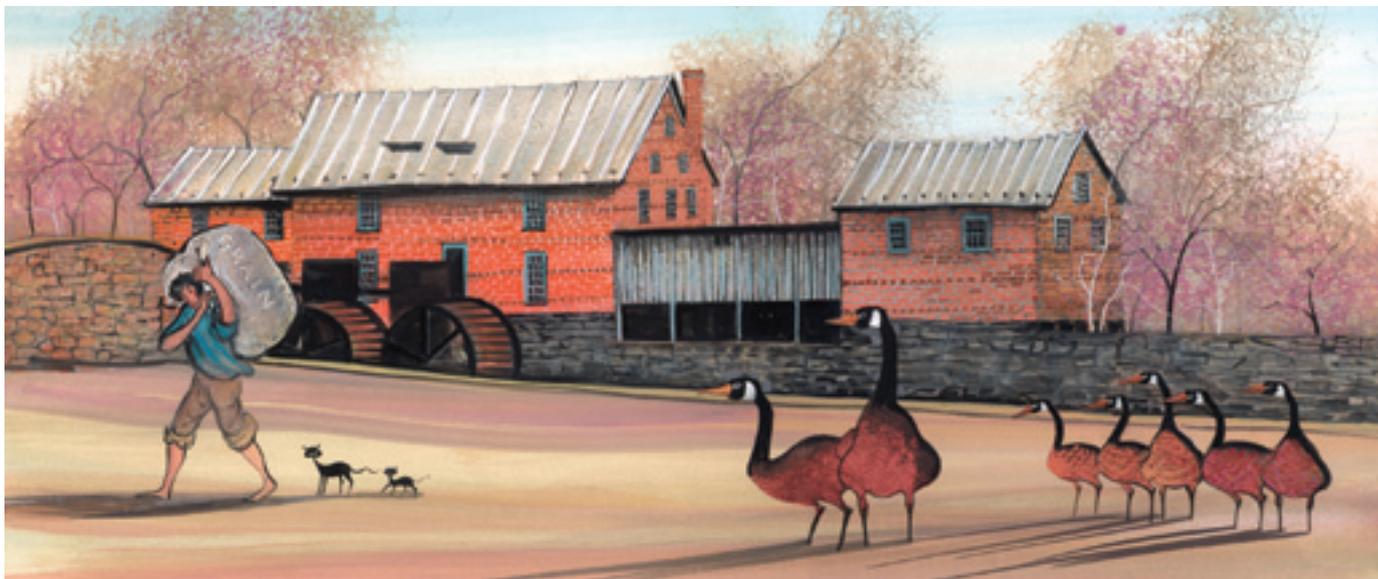
Three years later, in 1967, she sold out a one-person museum exhibition, inspiring her to market her work more seriously. Since then, the unique style and wholesome nature of her work has garnered her international acclaim and put her paintings on the walls of collectors all over the US, Europe and Japan. Since it first opened in 1989, the P. Buckley Moss Museum has grown to attract more than 45,000 visitors annually to its Waynesboro location.

The Art of Life

As famous as she has become as an artist, Moss has also constructed a second legacy for her dedicated work with special

education groups as well as her generous donations to children's charities. The P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education to aid children with learning disabilities was created in 1995. The





Foundation’s mission statement declares its aim is to integrate the arts into “all educational programs, with a special focus on children who learn in different ways.”

Once a struggling student and undiagnosed dyslexic who was “Not proficient in anything” and voted “Least Likely to Succeed” by her high school classmates, Pat Moss has not only become a wealthy, internationally-acclaimed artist, she is also a frequent guest speaker in special education classes and a role model for anyone with a learning challenge. Not only generous with her time, Moss has donated original works and prints that have raised millions for children-related charities. In 1987,



the P. Buckley Moss Society was established by some zealous patrons to help with Moss’ charitable work. The Society is a membership organization with 38 chapters and about 15,000 members. It offers scholarships and awards, charitable donations (usually in the form of a Moss print that can then be used to raise funds), and a shop with Society-related apparel, earrings and such.

Pat Moss is a prime example of how one can rise above perceived disabilities with talent, determination and, by her own admission, some luck to not only become successful for themselves but also be an inspiration and benefactor to many others.



Pat Moss with a group of quilters at the 2008 Shenandoah Valley exhibit “Quilts – Past, Present and Future.”



P. Buckley Moss Museum located at 150 P. Buckley Moss Dr., Waynesboro, VA 22980. Admission is free and children are welcome. 800-343-8643 www.pbuckleymoss.com

Top painting: *Aldie Mill*

Inset painting: *Shenandoah Sentry*