



The Barnstone Studios
ACHIEVE TALENT – LEARN TO DRAW VERY WELL

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Myron Barnstone Exhibit to Launch Utica College's Fall Season

Utica Gallery Director and Barnstone Studios Alum Coordinating Unique Dual Display

Thurmont, MD, February 5, 2020 -- Both sides of the late Myron Barnstone -- his celebrated work as a groundbreaking painter, and his decades of teaching thousands the secrets of master artists, will be featured in a unique exhibit at Utica College this fall. Barnstone Studios alumnus Prof. Mario Andrés Colón, Director of Utica's Edith Langley Barrett Art Gallery, is coordinating the dual show which will open September 4 and run through October 24 at the upstate New York college.

Before he burned hundreds of his paintings, and locked away hundreds more, Barnstone was the toast of Paris. His abstract figurative and nature paintings and drawings were featured at numerous exhibits in the U.S., France, England and Spain. Despite his own success, Barnstone, a graduate of the prestigious Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, England, was growing increasingly frustrated that contemporary art schools in the 70s were abandoning the classical instruction of strict geometric design, anatomy, and dynamic symmetry to encourage students to "just do what feels good."

Barnstone destroyed or hid his own work to keep from unduly influencing his students, and embarked on what would be a 35-year career running Barnstone Studios in Coplay, Pennsylvania. He mentored thousands of students who would go on to distinguished careers in art-related fields. Alumni are teachers, authors, professors, graphic designers, animators, architects, and professional artists with work in galleries, museums and private collections around the world.

It wasn't until after Barnstone's death in 2016 at the age of 83 that his daughter, Catherine 'Cat' Barnstone Szafran, would assume the mantle of Studio Director, and start revealing her late father's art to the world. Many of the pieces had been hidden for over four decades; most had never been seen by the public. Over the past three years, she's coordinated a dozen exhibits at galleries and schools in several states.

Szafran's currently working with Colón to create both an educational exhibit showing students how Barnstone was influenced by other master artists, and how

he gradually developed his own unique style. The second part of the exhibit, which will be in a different area of the expansive Barrett Gallery, will showcase ironic Barnstone paintings and drawings. Colón will be traveling to the new Barnstone Studios location in Thurmont, Maryland, to study the remaining 500 original works, and select the ones he will be featuring this fall.

For Colón, the project is much more than just planning a future exhibit. He's seeing the work of his mentor for the first time, and getting the opportunity to share his own art heritage with his students.

Colón discovered the work of William Bouguereau, a French 19th century painter, while he was a student at Thomas R. Proctor High School in Utica, NY. To his frustration, his teacher told him no one painted in the realistic genre any more -- the figure was dead, and he needed to focus on abstraction. The canvas was flat, she insisted, and so was the paint. He continued his art studies at a local community college, and then the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme, Connecticut. There, Colón met a student who started telling him about the golden section, root rectangles, the Fletcher system of palette control, and all the other techniques he'd learned from a teacher named Myron Barnstone, who taught in a little studio in Coplay, Pennsylvania.

Colón and his wife immediately packed up their two cats and everything they owned to head to Coplay. At Barnstone Studios, he was finally able to receive the instruction he'd been seeking for years.

Now, as the gallery director at Utica, Colón has finally been able to devote his life to his passion -- teaching the next generation of artists the fundamentals of drawing.

"That carries through what we're doing at the Barrett Art Gallery," Colón explained. "We're helping artists and students find their way by making connections and celebrating powerful art work that elevates, that sustains, and can change lives."

Barnstone Studios at 202 A East Main Street, Thurmont, Maryland, is dedicated to fostering an appreciation of fine art, and helping to make art education accessible to all who desire to develop their talent and enrich their lives. Additional information about Barnstone Method classes, the Patreon program, private coaching from Barnstone Master Guides, original works or limited edition prints and other related products is available online at [BarnstoneStudios.com](https://www.barnstonestudios.com), or by calling 301.788.6241.

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