

# Biography Barbara van Druten

## Education and exhibitions

Barbara van Druten is an 'illustrative artist' and designer. After Barbara van Druten graduated at the Academy of Visual Arts in Maastricht, the Netherlands (1999) having studied Visual Communication, she studied illustration at the artacademy (VSUP) in Prague, Czech Republic.

After these educations Barbara van Druten lived in London and in Cambridge where she gained more experience in the field of illustrative painting and digital illustration. Eventually she returned to the Netherlands. She has had exhibitions in London, Prague, Brussels, Miami, Frankfurt, Barcelona, Sevilla, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Milan, The Hague and Leiden.

Her work is part of different collections all over the world, like the collection in the Latin Art Museum in Miami. Because of the international exhibitions, she has had interviews published in different international magazines, newspapers, and on TV. Interviews were published in for example: The Scotsman, the Elegance, the Haagsche Courant, Flair and the Marie Claire.

Barbara van Druten works both as a freelancer as in paid employment. She has worked for example as a webdesigner at e-Vision, as an art director at PanelChannel and as a marketing/Photoshop specialist. Her jobs at the diverse (international) companies and organizations can be described as: continual acquisition, graphic design, design of merchandise, (digital) illustration, webdesign, visual manipulation, collages, marketing, writing press releases, editorial work and organizing workshops. She has also worked for five years as an art-teacher and student coach at different secondary schools (Lower General Secondary Education (vmbo), Higher General Secondary Education (havo), pre-university education (vwo) and special education).

## Digital illustrations, illustrative art & books

The digital illustrations are kind of 'dreamy' sinister, while the illustrative art of Barbara van Druten is known for their bright colours and naïve style. She's inspired by her son, daily life, travelling and meeting different people from different cultures. But, she also makes artwork especially for children.

Her work was published as bookcovers by the GLB-publisher. She has written and illustrated the books: 'My daddy lives in Africa', and 'Hello! Who are you?'. She's working on her third book as we speak.

## **Side projects**

Barbara van Druten has done different assignments for national and international based companies, varying from graphic- or webdesign to paintings. She has worked as a webdesigner at e-Vision and as an art director at PanelChannel.

Besides her art, Barbara leads projects in co-operation with children and companies, in which the children or employees take part in the creation of a painting or other piece of art, for example a mosaic sofa!

## **Nominations and charity**

She was nominated as Flair-woman-of-the-year and won the Siemens Contest.

She was a member and initiator of POPA ([www.popa.nl](http://www.popa.nl)). POPA is an acronym for POSitive PASSion. POPA was an art-movement founded in Leiden, the Netherlands, the birthplace of the world-renowned Dutch artist Rembrandt. The vision behind this movement was that of three women, Barbara van Druten, Susana López and Soon Ja Terwee. POSitive PASSion otherwise known as POPA was a movement that wished to create positive feelings through an eclectic mix of creativity and art. Bright colours define the POPA-art itself. The paintings seek portray acceptance of cultural, religious & ethnic diversity that exists in our world today. The three artists have been donating 10% sales price of their works of art to different organizations supporting children.

Barbara van Druten entered several auctions, like the one of radio 3FM, Rokpa or Ronald McDonald. From the money collected from the sale of her paintings, contributions were made to family-reunions in Congo, children in Nepal and children with a severe illness.

Website: [www.barbaravandruten.nl](http://www.barbaravandruten.nl)