

A Brief Biographical Essay

I was born in Brooklyn in 1947, learned the rudiments of photography in the early 1970s, began to draw in 1981, and to paint in oils in 1988. I returned to photography in 2009. The focus of my painting and drawing is self-portraiture, while that of my photography is taking pictures on the streets of New York.

Chemistry and library science are the fields in which I was formally educated. After working for fifteen years in academia and industry combining those subjects (during which I also pursued my interests in art), I worked for eleven years at the Frick Art Reference Library.

My wife, Willa Cox, is also an artist (her website is willacox.com; she retired from a career at a major cultural institution in 2018). With the advent of my second one-person exhibition (1997), and after having discovered that we could live on one salary, we decided I would leave the Frick so I could be home working on my art “all the time” (in quotes here because my taking on many household responsibilities made much more studio time available for Willa than she had when we were both working).

Most of my art education took place at the International Center of Photography’s school, library, and museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the New York Society Library; dozens of New York galleries; and of course Frick Art Reference Library and the Frick Collection. I took classes for a couple of years at the Art Students League, the National Academy of Design, and the School of Visual Arts.

The 1981/82 Guggenheim exhibition of the works of Giorgio Morandi and the 2013 documentary film on Saul Leiter *In No Great Hurry* were of vital importance to me, coming as they did as I was contemplating first, pivoting from a career in business to focussing on my art and second, devoting more energy to photography and less to painting and drawing.

Discussions with Willa about her works and my works and all the works we have seen together have been as important to me as any resource I mentioned in the preceding two paragraphs.

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