

## Margaret Minardi Artist Biography

Margaret Minardi lived much of her early years in Port of Spain Trinidad where, without television or radio, she was able to foster a vivid imagination. She graduated high school from Cold Spring Harbor High School in 1978. In her high school years she was able to attend The Huntington School of Fine Arts which gave her a heavy classical, atelier training. She attended SUNY Purchase where she was influenced by the Abstract Expressionists, especially Willem de Kooning. She was a painting major with a minor in lithography. She graduated at the top of her conservatory and in 1982 was awarded the Faculty Award for Drawing And Painting. Minardi received a Master's in Education from Dowling College. The remainder of her education has been predominantly self-taught.

Minardi does not have a traditional studio. She works on tables or on the ground wherever she is, sometimes lugging 5-foot canvases around during her work day. She is an obsessive artist, rarely looking up into the real world. Her series have focused on subjects such as infertility, adoption, identical twins, her upbringing in Trinidad and bi-polar disease. Most of the time Minardi works in a stream of consciousness, not knowing what a series is about until it is most of the way through it.

As a 30-year high school art educator, Minardi has found profound gratification in passing on what she teaches herself to her students. They help to keep her stimulated and excited about art and on top of the latest technology and mediums. She is also a single mother of two of her own, Max and Vanessa.

Most of the past 30 years have been spent promoting her students work. Over that time a thousand works of her own art have accumulated in the closet. In January of 2015 a close friend bullied her into taking her work out. Since then she has shown in over 150 exhibitions that include solo, group, local and National venues. Her work continues to win top awards, including Best in Show in many of them. She is also a National artist/educator of the year and was recently published on the cover of *Artist Magazine*.

Minardi has also been a panelist and guest speaker at places like the Heckscher Museum and Saint Joseph's College. She has been a grant recipient, a juror and an Artist in Residence.