

ARTIST PROFILE

PAM MORAN

1947-

Like so many of us, Pam Moran enthusiastically created drawings as a child. When she decided to pursue this more seriously in college by majoring in art, however, she hit a roadblock in her first composition class.

The material seemed like a specialized language she couldn't understand. She recalls her feelings: "The wall between me and the 'real' artists felt insurmountable."

Pam still felt a creative yearning, so she turned to the more familiar medium of fabric, drawn to the patterns, colors, and textures of cloth. She created functional pieces, later expanding into dyeing and screen-printing fabric, and sewing pieced collages.

She gained recognition in the fiber-arts field, but eventually lost her enthusiasm for the medium. "Creating cloth, choosing fabrics, and cutting and placing them began to feel more like editing than creating," she notes. "I wanted more direct access to the surface."

Pam returned to her childhood passion. In 2007, after taking an art class during the week of her 60th birthday, she began to draw. She claims she regained the uncensored artistic freedom she experienced as a girl, and drawing came naturally because she was so ready to embrace it.

"The more I make art, the more I become myself ... I try to begin with an empty mind and let my hand and arm do whatever feels right," she explains. Her drawing process is personal, intuitive, and meditative (figures 25 and 26). The organic, undulating shapes in her work express the artistic liberation she so enjoys.

—Katherine Aimone

figure 25

Pam Moran
Pod, 2008

Graphite, charcoal, chalk,
acrylic paint on paper

38 x 42 inches (96.5 x 106.7 cm)

Courtesy of the Artist



AS A CHILD, I FOUND NOTHING AS SATISFYING AS A BOX OF CRAYONS AND
A BIG BLANK SHEET OF PAPER. DRAWING WAS LIKE A MAGIC PORTAL THAT
ALLOWED ME ACCESS INTO ANOTHER WORLD.



figure 26

Pam Moran
Untitled, 2008

Graphite, charcoal, chalk, acrylic
paint on paper

42 x 48 inches (106.7 x 122.5 cm)

Courtesy of the Artist