



BY CANDI PUREN

artView

News and notes from the local art scene

Artist P. Buckley Moss was labeled “not proficient in anything” by her elementary school teachers.

Imagine that!

This gentle artist, whose dyslexia was not yet diagnosed, has achieved phenomenal success and has raised more than \$4 million dollars for charity. She even established the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children’s Education, which promotes the use of art in the school curriculum as an aid to children with learning differences. Having achieved success in spite of (or, as she says, because of) this impediment, she is eager to help reach children in situation similar to her own.

Moss knew from the start that she learned differently than other children.

“My older sister, Mary, was a model student. She had the best experience at school and, listening to her go on and on about it – well I just knew that I would, too. But immediately I realized that something was amiss,” she said. “I recall the teacher quizzing us with pictures and words on flash cards, she held up ‘c-a-t’ with a cat on it and I saw the cat and said ‘kitty.’ I wasn’t reading, I was telling her what I saw, which was a kitty.”

When one of her teachers fi-

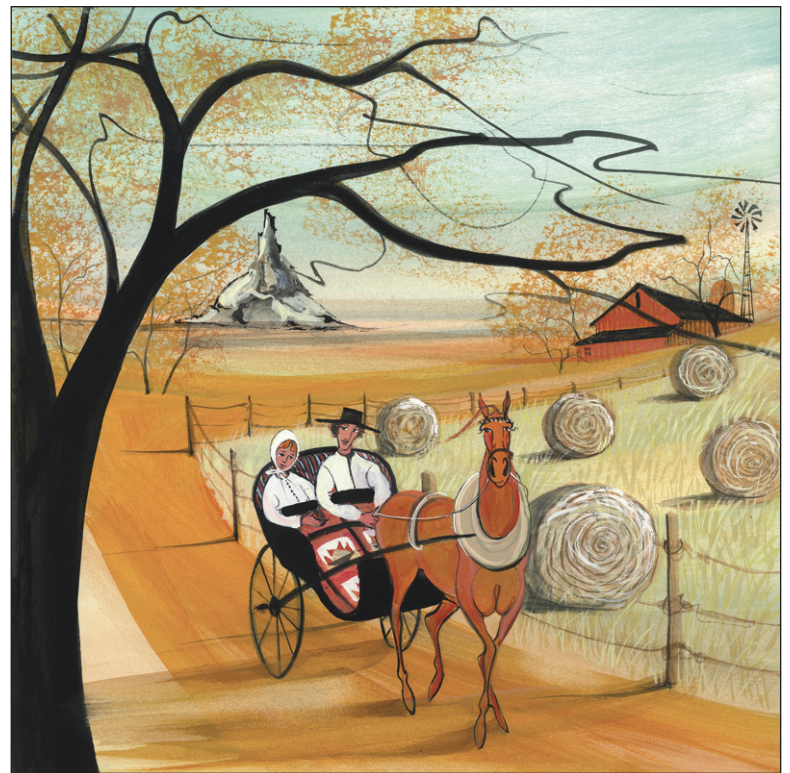
ne Arts. Soon, the young girl with dyslexia was excelling in this welcoming learning environment.

After graduating high school, Moss received a scholarship to New York’s Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1951. She studied at the art school for four years, specializing in fine arts and graphic design.

In 1964, Pat’s husband’s work took their family to Waynesboro, Va., and everything changed in her art. It was here that she began to appreciate the quiet beauty of rural scenery and to know the picturesque and deeply religious Amish and Mennonite people. Moss integrated these new elements into her art, creating her own personal style.

Moss has created a new painting, “This is the Good Life,” which will be released as a limited edition giclée on paper during her Omaha appearance at Ginger’s Hang-Up on Sept. 26.

Giclée (zhee-clay) is the process of making fine art prints from a digital source using inkjet printers, utilizing archival inks. This



“This is the Good Life,” by P. Buckley Moss

will also be released during the show.

Ginger’s Hang-Up is one of about 300 galleries that carry P. Buckley Moss’ art. Each year she travels the country to visit up to 20 of these galleries for special shows.

“I love the regular contact with my collectors,” Moss said. “There is an energy I get from talking with them that helps feed my creativity. I am not one of those artists toiling away in an ivory tower. I need the contact with my collectors, and I crave the exchange of ideas.”

Moss has become a role model for the learning-impaired and frequently is asked to speak to special education classes. In 1987, a few passionate collectors established the P. Buckley Moss Society to assist the artist and her husband in all of their charitable endeavors. This Society now has approximately 38 active chapters and a membership of around 15,000 members. Moss is both the society’s inspiration and its “battle cry” as it spreads the artist’s messages of concern and optimism for misunderstood children with learning disabilities.

In 1989, the P. Buckley Moss Museum opened in Waynesboro,

with a stated purpose of permanently recording and illuminating the Moss phenomenon through educational exhibitions, lectures, permanent collections and archival files. The Museum attracts approximately 45,000 visitors per year and has become a place for people to “rediscover” some of the traditional meanings and potential consequences of art.

“You know, it never occurred to me to do anything else but make art,” Moss said. “I’m not capable of doing anything else. Art is the thing to do. I suppose that initially I didn’t have the confidence to do anything else.”

Moss’ mother enjoyed her daughter’s success.

“She lived well into her 90s and was a part of my museum staff,” Moss said. “‘Gran Liz,’ as she was called, actually worked as a docent at our museum. She played the grand piano and told stories about me to anyone who would listen.”

It gives one pause to think that we would have missed all of this if Moss hadn’t attended the fine arts high school. With sheer determination and a bit of luck on her side, she’s become an artist – but also a champion of children. And all this from a little girl who “wasn’t proficient in anything.”



“Sandhill Cranes” by P. Buckley Moss

nally determined that this little misunderstood girl was artistically gifted, Moss’ mother was convinced to enroll her in an extraordinary public school for girls in

downtown Manhattan: the Washington Irving High School for the

increases resolution, color gamut and gives the artist much more control over every aspect of the image.

“This Is the Good Life” depicts a gentle Nebraska prairie scene and features Chimney Rock in the background. Moss has also created a new open edition poster, “Nebraska-The Good Life,” which

If you go
What: P. Buckley Moss show
When: Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Ginger’s Hang-Up,
 14477 W. Center Road
Contact: (402) 334-5889