



Tabbatha Bella

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TABBATHA BELLA'S ART JOURNEY



A drawing of her trip to Atlanta Dairies. (age 5)

DON'T DESPISE SMALL BEGINNINGS

Tabbatha Bella started drawing and coloring with her grandmother at the age of three. Her grandmother was a natural artist. After her work as a 'Riveting Rosie' during WWII at Fort Gillem, she worked in Atlanta for a local designer drawing his fashions for commercial sales runs.

Tabbatha was inspired when she watched her grandmother draw the rose in a vase that was on the kitchen table. She begged her grandmother to show her how she did it. This single event started a childhood filled with countless hours of tutelage under her grandmother's watchful eye and creative hand. However, Tabbatha just thought of it as fun weekends drawing and talking with her grandmother.



Tabbatha's painting from the class she took with her grandmother. (age 10)

TABBATHA TOOK UP CHALK PASTEL AND OIL PAINTING AT THE AGE OF NINE IN BETWEEN HER VARIOUS SPORTS' SEASONS

Tabbatha Bella's mother tried to find her outlets to pursue her art. As family funds were limited, she couldn't allow her daughter to explore many avenues. However, she found a woman who taught adult chalk pastel art classes at the YWCA. The teacher agreed to allow Tabbatha to attend. Classes went well until that fateful day when she made Tabbatha draw the bird so large that only half would fit on the paper. Tabbatha preferred to draw on a small scale, but this class

required large scale drawing on news print paper. Tabbatha was so distraught, that she completed the piece in tears. That was the end of adult chalk pastel classes.

Several months later, her mother found an adult oil painting class and ask if her daughter could join. They agreed. Tabbatha attended the class, and she promised her mother she would not cry if they made her paint off the canvas' edge. Tabbatha's grandmother, who taught her to draw, was excited and wanted to take a class with her. Tabbatha really enjoyed oil painting, but limited family finances did not allow her to continue painting.



Portrait in graphite. (age 17)

DURING HER TEEN YEARS, TABBATHA CONCENTRATED ON DRAWING CARTOONS AND PORTRAITS

Tabbatha Bella spent countless hours drawing during her teens years. She was seriously considering pursuing a career as a Disney animator. At the age of fourteen, her artwork was selected for the 'Small World' segment on the Disney Channel. Tabbatha saw her work on the TV once and was thrilled. However, the more she studied animation the more she decided that she was a colorist more than an animator. She concentrated more and more on portraits as she grew older. At age twelve, she started a new computer programming course being offered by Apple through her school. She liked computers and considered going to college to study computer science, but she decided to look into another school that offer videography.

While attending an open house, the counselor, after discovering her love and experience on computers, informed her of a new program they offered called Graphic Design. She was excited and wanted to take both. However, as was so often the case in her life, the tuition and fees were beyond her family's financial situation. Student loans were not an option as it was a private institution. Tabbatha left crushed but started studying both subjects on her own and taught herself as much as she could. She took a year off after high school to work and save money for college. She attended a local university that offered a computer technology degree.



Logo for a figure skating industry publication.

TABBATHA STARTED A SMALL COMPANY BUILDING WEBSITES, LOGO DESIGN, AND VARIOUS GRAPHIC DESIGN PROJECTS

Tabbatha Bella taught herself HTML. She then designed and published her first website in 1995. This site was used to display and sell her artwork. She went on to form a company that designed websites, logos, and offered various other graphic design services. The logo design services proved to be the most successful.



From the book, *Goodbye Poonjab*.

TABBATHA BEGAN DISPLAYING HER WORK IN GALLERIES IN THE US, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA

Tabbatha Bella started entering her paintings in juried competitions in 2000. The first award she won she gave to her grandmother who taught her how to draw those many years back. In 2001, Tabbatha Bella presented a tribute painting to Mayor Giuliani's office in New York in honor of the souls lost on September 11, 2001. In 2002, she took part in an exhibition at the Woodruff Art Center in Atlanta, Georgia. It was a formal introduction of four new artists; two painters, a photographer, and an installation artist. She later left the art exhibition world. She found it restrictive and frustrating as people kept insisting on boxing her into a specific genre, style, and medium. Tabbatha saw no reason why she should be limited in her artistic expression.

Tabbatha Bella first considered writing following her father's advice in 2002. She finally found the right fit for her art by illustrating her books for children. The artwork for each book/series is different. This outlet has allowed her the freedom to explore different techniques, mediums, and styles. She enjoys working in both traditional mediums and computer art.