

## VISIONARY ART

# The Art of Mark Boritz

Artist Mark Boritz holds a bachelor's degree in photography from Empire State College in New York, but he still considers himself self-taught.

Mr. Boritz, a lifelong resident of Brooklyn who loves New York City's architecture and skyline, used to wander around the city taking pictures. He honed his artistic skills by visiting the photography galleries and museums in Soho, building his own dark room, and using his computer and printer to perfect his art. He now considers himself a graphic artist.

Originally diagnosed in 1972 with paranoid schizo-

phrenia, Mr. Boritz says his diagnosis evolved into borderline personality disorder and bipolar disorder, and that currently it is unspecified.

He jokingly refers to himself today as "supernormal," and credits meditation and his faith in God with his ability to almost stop taking medications. Today, he takes the antianxiety/antipsychotic trifluoperazine hydrochloride (Stelazine) as needed.

Mr. Boritz recently had a very successful one-man show, "Stored in a Closet—35 Years of Unseen Work," at the Fountain Gallery in New York, where his work set a

gallery sales record. He cocurated the exhibit and is now getting back to shooting new work.

"Now I'm even more encouraged and feel I can take my work to galleries outside the mental health community," says Mr. Boritz, who counts among his influences the work of Andy Warhol and the music of the Beatles, Beethoven, and Bob Dylan.

Mr. Boritz continues to take his recent success in stride. "I picked art to bide my time," says Mr. Boritz, who is 60. "Art gives me something to do."

—Deeanna Franklin



MARK BORITZ

Orange, Red, Blue, Green M and M's, 2003 or 2004

"I do a lot of scanning into my computer because I like the color and shape. Whatever looks good is good. I don't limit myself, that's what counts. I use a lot of color in my images and people seem to like them."



MARK BORITZ

Tree One, 1990s

"This was used on the postcard invitations for my show at the Fountain Gallery. I work in series. I'll get on something and try to exhaust the subject. I go through all the permutations. I took pictures of trees in the inner city. Certain subjects I go back to over and over again. Trees are one; subways and cityscapes are others."



MARK BORITZ

Death Masks of Beethoven and Bob Dylan, 2005

"I used a panoramic printer for these. They're my favorites; the first is Beethoven and then comes everyone else."