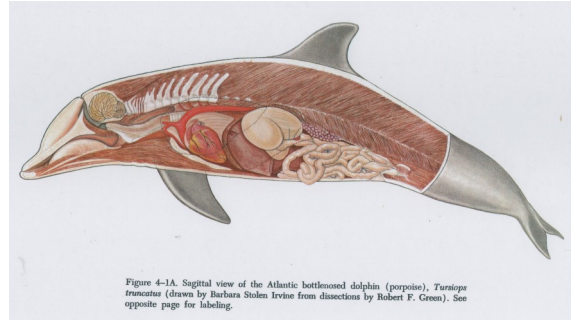
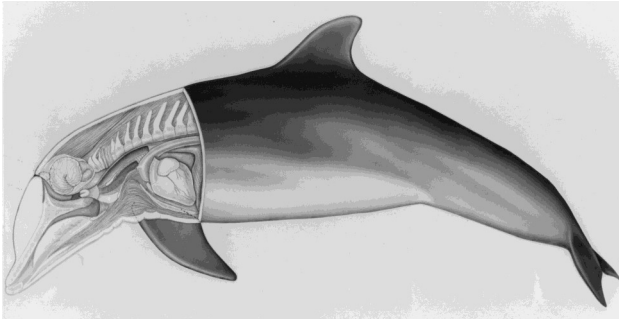


Barbara Irvine

October 27, 1942- August 8, 2021

Barb was an artist who couldn't help herself. Her interests led to 50 years of evolving careers as a scientific illustrator, rock illustrator, potter, fabric artist, and photographer. Along the way she demonstrated a talent as a wall muralist, a wood worker (designing and building a rounded, inlaid oak table in her first and only wood working class), a church altar-designer, and a fireplace tile designer/cutter.

Born and raised in Madison, WI, Barb was always drawing. When a high school teacher said she might find a career as a scientific illustrator, off she went to Oregon State University to major in science and minor in art. Graduating in 1965, she headed off to Miami, where she was offered scientific illustrator at work at her first two job interviews. So she took both, illustrating dolphins by day and small crabs into the night.



In 1967, seeking to escape the heat of Miami during the summer, she took a summer job illustrating dolphin anatomy for a veterinarian at the Navy's nascent marine mammals in program at Pt. Mugu, NAS, in Oxnard, CA. Her color and B&W illustrations have been published in a book on marine mammal medicine. There she met Blair Irvine, who was training dolphins to work in the open sea, and they were married when she returned the following summer.



Barb and Blair moved to Sarasota, FL in 1970, so he could train dolphins to attack sharks. Barb helped support the family at craft fairs by illustrating animals on smooth stones hauled from California beaches. She was good enough to criticize Audubon as being only mostly accurate.





Moving to Gainesville, FL in 1971, Barb supported Blair in grad school with her proceeds from craft fairs and as a member of the non-profit Gainesville Artist's Guild, whose motto was "Art por la Art." But she soon began to burn out as a rock illustrator. Besides, pottery had lots of creative potential. So she built a gas kiln in her back yard, and off she flowed into her next career, this time as a potter, showing in Art Fairs from Florida to Minnesota. But in the back of her mind, she always has a love of fabric, which she had been collecting for years, and that gradually bubbled up.



In 1983, Barb and family moved to Eugene, Oregon, so Blair could go back to grad school. While starting to quilt seriously, her clay-interests turned to new glazes, and porcelain, and electric kilns. She continued to do craft festivals and shows, but now in the northwest as well as in the Midwest. At Eugene Saturday Market, where she would show for about 35 years, she may have been one of the first potters to hand-build porcelain platters with lace indentations, and to show cut-out porcelain candle lanterns. By the late 1980's her interests in fabric and quilted wall hangings were starting to take hold, so she showed both fabric pieces and pottery for a number of years. By the late 1990's, she was burning out on pottery and becoming interested in photography. Taking photos became her all-consuming show-interest until she finally retired in 2015.

