

You Are Seen

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INNER PORTRAITS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

After 88 Years...Artist Still Looking Forward

Fairfield, CT [November 17, 2006] A pioneer artist in the human potential movement, Antoinette Martignoni is actively engaged in the process work of creating Inner Portraits, drawing more than 700 over the past fifteen years. At 88 Martignoni is a Connecticut grandmother and great-grandmother who found her life's work—at age 73! When many people have long-ago retired, she became an Inner Portrait artist-- uncovering people's strengths and unseen potential through a unique art process.

It may be thought that Inner Portraits are just pictures of people, but they are more. "People are looking for insights from their stories," says Martignoni, "Something that they can't find themselves." People are welcoming of her and her work with Inner Portraits. "As they explore the portraits they all find different things in them, uncovering hidden shapes and meaning in the images."

Martignoni is not just a gifted artist, but also gifted in her work with people. She establishes a connection before starting a portrait. The process doesn't always begin in her studio, it could be over her morning coffee as she thinks about who is scheduled for a portrait that day. "Its really about manifesting—having something tangible as people work toward personal goals—changes. The journey begins with the first *thought*."

Portraits are as different as each individual. Martignoni's Inner Portraits recently were cataloged in preparation for writing a book about the Inner Portrait process. Portraits organized by men, women, couples, and families are easily recognizable as people and scenes, however something more is revealed in a closer review. Like children searching for shapes in the clouds on a summer day, people find animals, faces, and symbolic shapes hidden in the portraits. Family scenes like one of a father and his daughters are comforting yet off-beat, especially when it's noticed the family is sitting in a big brown shoe! Martignoni remarks, "Some people dread what an Inner Portrait might reveal, but it's really about the best side of us... who we are and the potential of who we can be. We *can* be the family that's as comfortable with each other as a favorite old shoe."

Known in Fairfield County as a commercial illustrator, Martignoni worked with some of the top engineering firms during the 60's through the 80's, these firms sought her unique illustration skills. Before breaking ground on a multimillion dollar commercial structure investors wanted to see a rendering of what the completed project would look like. Martignoni's uncanny ability was to take blueprints in hand and to see the finished project positioned on a site before the foundations were even laid.

Committed to sharing the Inner Portrait as a process to reveal human potential, Martignoni's work was displayed at Pymander Books & Gifts in Westport during 2005, she was interviewed by Heather Kovar of Channel 12 TV News in May 2006, and she exhibited the Inner Portraits at the Trinity Mind, Body, Spirit Expo in Newtown, CT in August 2006. There are plans for a book in 2007 to explore the Inner Portrait process, tentatively titled *You Are Seen*.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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Fact Sheet

Antoinette Martignoni, Inner Portrait Artist

Milestone Events

- First student to receive the degree of Bachelor of Applied Arts from the University of Pennsylvania
- Creative Director and Partner at Koelling/Martignoni & Co., Westport, CT, later founder of Martignoni & Co graphics and illustration firm in Fairfield, CT.
- Co-host of the *Italian Hour* radio shows - known as *The Toni & Carlo Show* - at WNLK Norwalk, CT and WSTC Stamford, CT .
- 15 hours of flight lessons in small aircraft.
- 30 year involvement in the human potential movement: like the Albertson Memorial Church, Old Greenwich, CT and the International Pathwork Foundation. Explored EST which became Landmark Education in the 1980's
- 2006, interviewed on Channel 12 TV News
- 2006, Inner Portrait used as cover art for *Natural Awakenings Magazine*.

Education

- B. A. A., University of Pennsylvania
- Diploma in Illustration, the Museum School of Industrial Art, now known as the Philadelphia College of Art

Work

- 50 years, commercial illustrator for advertising and industrial sites
- 15 years, Inner Portrait artist.

Interests

- Painting, engaged in the practice of *Painting from the Source* created by Aviva Gold.
- Keeping abreast of spiritual modalities.
- Informed and ever-learning student of astrology.
- Reading fiction for relaxation:
 - Charles de Lint (contemporary fantasy)
 - J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter series)
 - Brian Jaques (Redwall series)plus 150 assorted writers of ethnic detective and mystery writers.

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<https://www.youareseen.com>

INTERVIEW Q & A

Sample questions for the media

1. Are you a psychic?

I don't see auras, never have. A clairvoyant may read emanation of energy and a fortune teller may predict the future. I don't do any of that. I make a connection with people, and with the help of a higher power, who I call my guides, I am able to show people their true inner self, their soul. I'm not what is referred to as a channeler, but rather a channel. I'm like the color commentator for a TV football game—I don't influence the game, but make it more understandable, more interesting through my perception of it. I believe I've been given this in-sight for a purpose. A shift occurred in my spiritual journey when I realized that if we can see it we can be it. I don't predict the future, however often I get letters that says what a person sees conceptually in their Inner Portrait, not literally, has happened in their life, sometimes many years after their portrait.

2. What's it like to do an Inner Portrait?

It's so much unabashed fun, it feels like play. I never have fretted over whether I could do it or not. The Inner Portraits started when someone told me I needed to do them and *could* do them. Through the years any direction my career went was because someone had asked me to do something—I gave engineers illustrations of buildings before their were built and advertisers what they wanted for print work. I don't do any preparation before meeting a person by phone or in my studio. I ask only one question of my guides and that is "What does he or she need to see about themselves." I feel an incredibly lightness, a giddiness when I draw an Inner Portrait because I work to become the person whose portrait I'm doing. It takes effort to relax after such an exhilarating experience!

3. What do people do with their Inner Portrait?

Mostly people put their Inner Portrait where they can't find them—they have no idea how valuable they are! Only in the last four years have people come prepared to accept their portrait and to use it. This change is partly because of a shift in my own perception of the Inner Portraits. In the beginning the portraits were more imaginative and fanciful in their appearance. About 5 years ago I came to fully understand that the value of the portraits is in the immediate possibilities they uncover.

People have used their Inner Portraits for some remarkable things. One poet had a large core board display made for his reading and used the portrait to advertise the event. Other people have used their portraits on business cards, CD covers, and even on memorial flyers. They've been used to open doors to conversations with loved ones that were difficult at best, but may not have taken place without the portrait as a starting point. Many people frame their portrait and hang it in a place where they can see it every day.

INTERVIEW Q & A

4. What keeps you going?

I have a purpose and there is a need. I feel honored when someone comes for an Inner Portrait. It's a privilege to be with someone who is willing to show up with out any masks and is willing to look for something deep within their self. There is excitement in discovery!

5. What do you hope people will discover in an Inner Portrait?

Themselves.

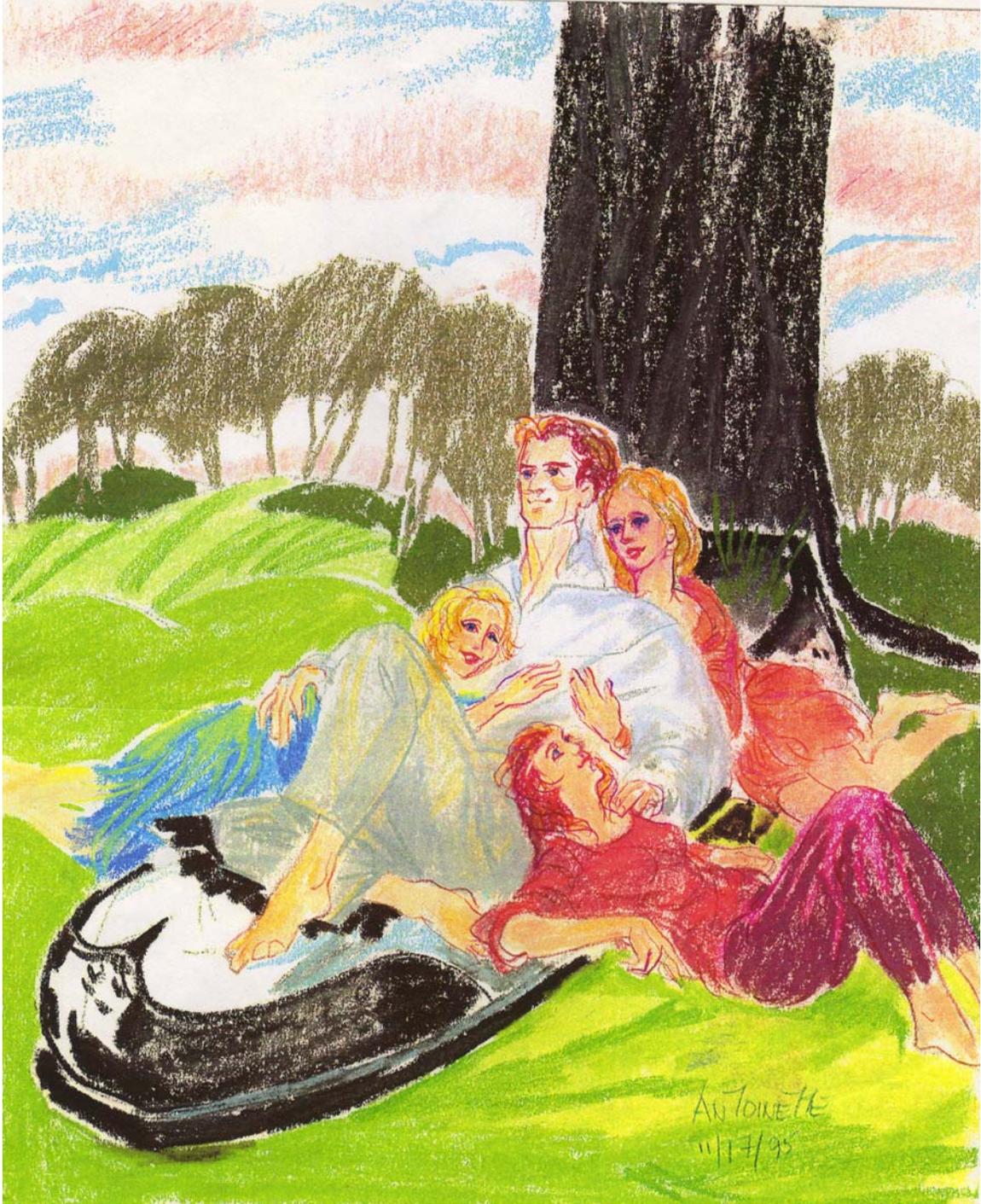
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PHOTOS AND INNER PORTRAITS







Inner Portrait by Antoinette Martignoni, 1995



Inner Portrait by Antoinette Martignoni, 2003