

Have a special talent you want to share with our residents? Please contact our publisher Karen Dockser Walter at karen.walter@n2co.com.



While it may not always be apparent due to our laid-back pace of life, our neighborhood is full of talented people doing amazing things. When we shift focus a bit, you may find that some of the folks living around you have incredible careers creating wonderful things—and Carol Bastien is one of them. A well-established artist with a unique approach to art, creative material, and the very idea of what creates beauty, Carol offered us her thoughts on all of the above, as well as life here in Ibis.

Carol's artistic roots run deep, stretching back to her childhood and in some ways framing her entire life and becoming a gift that she was eager to pass on to others: "I was encouraged from a young age to be creative. I took art

classes at The Museum of Modern Art as a child with Victor d'Amico, a renowned artist. The school I attended for 12 years had a significant art department. The teachers there were a great influence. But it was a college professor who showed me how I could combine my love of art and teaching."

Initially embarking on a career in art education, Carol attended Tufts University and earned a degree in that subject whilst simultaneously taking courses at The Boston Museum School of Fine Art. Later, she went on to complete a Master's degree in Art Education at NYU. She turned her academic achievements into a teaching career, beginning with an art program at an NYC public elementary school



and continuing for seven and a half years. During that time, as she describes it, “I threw myself into creating an art space that provided a creative environment for self-expression, introducing children to many mediums and first introductions to artists of note (Picasso, Matisse, Calder, etc.)” While teaching, Carol continued to develop professionally and earned another degree from NYU, this time in Interior Design.

After meeting her husband, Dominique and moving to Connecticut, Carol shifted careers to interior design. However, she kept her connection to the world of art—and more importantly, kept finding new ways to create: “I always did art - primarily painting and collage. Fast forward to the purchase of our NYC apt., where I became fascinated by the detritus on the city streets. I started picking-up city garbage, sanitizing it, and re-forming the pieces into site-specific found objects collages. As I have traveled the world, I have done similar collections.”

And travel the world they have—Carol and Dominique have journeyed through many parts of the world, and she’s created art in all of them: “So far, I’ve made collages from sites in NYC, the Bronx, various locations in Florida, Denver, Mt. Pleasant in North Carolina, London, Cornwall, Oxford, Devon in England, The West Highland Way in Scotland, Athens and Corfu in Greece, Bogota in Colombia.” With

such an impressive travel resume, Carol and Dominique were looking for a place to settle and decided that Ibis would be part of their journey. Currently, the couple divides their time between Manhattan and their home here, allowing them to visit family in the city—they have a son who lives and works in Manhattan—while also enjoying life at Ibis.

Speaking of the neighborhood, how do they feel about it? Carol had a lot of

wonderful things to say about everything Ibis has to offer, and even told us a bit about how they first started to explore it: “My husband, Dominique, & I have lived in Ibis part-time for 17 years. When we bought, our beagle, Chester, was with us and walking him in the hood introduced us to everyone else with dogs in the Orchard Hammock. With Chester long gone, we don’t have quite the same interactions in our neighborhood; however, we have so many more friends through our Ibis activities - golf, tennis, bridge, canasta, fitness center.”

Carol has also brought her love of education and her unique approach to art with her to Ibis—and you can benefit from her insights and experiences! “I have been teaching one collage art class for the past 10 years at Ibis. This has been a fun opportunity to awaken everyone’s hidden creativity!” In addition to discovering your creativity—and that of your neighbors!—you can see Carol’s art around town. “More recently, I have been making collars - decorative neckwear made from recycled fabrics, yarns & repurposed embellishments. The Boca Art Museum’s gift shop carried them last year as did a women’s high-end retail store. On March 31, 2023, The Gallere in Resource Depot in W. Palm Beach included 5 of my collars in a curated show called “WORN”. The exhibit goes through mid-May.”

This is far from the first time Carol’s work has garnered significant attention. Previously, she’s been interviewed by Spectrum 1 in NYC and on Voice of America, a worldwide radio broadcast. She’s also had a one-woman show in NYC and has been part of group shows in Palm Beach, Jupiter, and right here at Ibis during our annual art show.

You can also find Carol’s art on her website (www.carolbastienart.com). Carol’s creations must be seen to be at all understood—her approach to art find the beauty in discarded things, and then reshapes and re-frames them to tell stories that speak to us on several levels. So if you have a chance, try and experience her art for yourself. And if you encounter Carol and Dominique around the neighborhood, definitely stop and say hello!