

BAU-XI GALLERY

BARBARA COLE
Canadian [b. 1953]

Barbara Cole is a self-taught photographic artist who has built an extraordinary career in image making since beginning her practice in the 1980s. Cole's work has been exhibited worldwide and is extensively collected by both public and private institutions. Throughout her career Cole has worked internationally on commercial projects and has created several large-scale commissions, including installations for the atrium at the M. Lau Breast Cancer Centre in Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital and for Trump Hollywood in Hollywood Beach, Florida. Her series Underworld was exhibited at the Canadian Embassies in Tokyo and Washington, D.C.

Cole has won prestigious awards such the Grand Prize at the Festival International de la Photographie de Mode in Cannes, and third prize at the International Photography Awards in New York. In 2012, the acclaimed documentary series Snapshot: The Art of Photography II featured an episode devoted exclusively to Cole's photographic practice. Barbara Cole lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Painting with a Camera, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2024 Shadow Dancing, Bau-Xi Gallery Toronto, ON
- 2023 Somewhere, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Between Worlds, Bau-Xi Gallery Toronto, ON
- 2022 Beat, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Between Forms, Pellas Gallery, Boston, MA
Appearances, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montréal, QC
- 2021 Appearances, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2020 Retrospective, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
- 2019 Surfacing, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
Surfacing, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Surfacing, Galerie LeRoyer, Montreal, QC
Surfacing, Art Angels, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Book Launch and Retrospective, Submerged, Galerie LeRoyer, Montreal, QC
Barbara Cole Retrospective, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON
- 2017 Figure Painting, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Falling Through Time, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2016 Falling Through Time, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Miroir d'eau, Galerie LeRoyer, Montreal, QC
Moving Pictures, The Lenticulars, Creutzberg/Van Dun, Oisterwijk, The Netherlands
- 2014 Meditations, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
Duplicity, Galerie LeRoyer, Montreal, QC
- 2013 Duplicity, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
Underworld, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 Two People Walking a Tightrope in an Ordinary Life Full of Extraordinary Moments, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
Two People Walking a Tightrope in an Ordinary Life Full of Extraordinary Moments, Galerie LeRoyer, Montreal, QC
- 2011 Chromatics and White NOise, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
White NOise, Art Gallery of Grimsby, Grimsby, ON

1384 DUFFERIN STREET, TORONTO, ON
3045 GRANVILLE STREET, VANCOUVER, BC

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- 2010 Chromatics, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2009 White NOise, Airspace Gallery, Malton Airport Terminal 1, Toronto, ON
- 2008 White NOise, Gallery 345, Toronto, ON
- 2007 Painted Ladies, Iris Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
- 2006 Underworld, Iris Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
- 2004 Underworld, Canadian Embassy, Washington D.C.
- 2003 Underworld, Tatar Gallery, Toronto, ON
Underworld, Canadian Embassy, Tokyo, Japan
- 2000 Human | Nature, Tatar | Alexander Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1998 Toronto & Jerusalem Series, Ogilvy & Mather International, New York, NY, limited edition book
Toronto & Jerusalem Series, DDB Needham Worldwide, New York, NY, limited edition book
Toronto & Jerusalem Series, Luminus Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997 Toronto & Jerusalem Series, Tatar | Alexander Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1994 The Iris Prints, Mira Godard Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1993 Cibachrome/Transfer Work, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1991 New Colour Works, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1989 Distortions, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1986 Hand Coloured Work, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Looking Forward, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2022 Art Miami, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
- 2022 The Extended Runway, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
- 2022 Immersed, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2022 Summer Preview, The White Room Gallery, East Hampton, NY
- 2022 Photo London, Holden Luntz Gallery Booth, London, UK
- 2022 Virtual Art Toronto, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Fall Group Show, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Her, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2019 Art Miami, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Miami, FL
- 2018 NOX Contemporary Artspace, Jaffa Port, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2018 Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Curators Selection: Method, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2018 Photo London, London, UK
- 2017 Expolaroid, Montelimar, France
- 2017 Context, Art Miami, Bau-Xi Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2016 Context, Art Miami, Bau-Xi Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2016 Art Toronto, Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Gallery Artists, Creutzberg | Van Dun, The Netherlands
- 2014 Scope New York, Galerie LeRoyer, Miami, FL
- 2014 Summer Focus Series: Underworld, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2011 When Night Falls, Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2010 7ème Festival International de la Photographie de Mode, Cannes, France
- 2008 6ème Festival International de la Photographie de Mode, Cannes and Dubai
- 2008 Traverse, Marcia Rafelman Fine Arts/CONTACT 2008, Toronto, ON
- 2007 5ème Festival International de la Photographie de Mode, Cannes and Dubai

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- 2005 Chair & Series, Meter Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997 2 X 30, Tatar | Alexander Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1994 Contemporary Canadian Photography, D-MAX Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1992 Legal Perspective: Selected Works from the Corporate Collection of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinberg, ON
- 1990 The Presence of Portraits, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1990 Clochard, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1990 L'amour: A Celebration of Love, Portfolio Gallery, London, UK
- 1990 Chicago Art Fair, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1990 Basel Art Fair, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1990 Art Cologne, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1988 Lovers, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1988 Contemporary Canadian Photography, Hotel la Citadelle, Montreal, QC
- 1987 Contemporary Canadian Photography, Grimsby Art Gallery, Grimsby, ON
- 1987 Multiples, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, ON
- 1986 Masterpieces from the Gallery Collection, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1986 Twelve Contemporary Canadians, Watson Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1986 Imitation of Life, Gallery Quan, Toronto, ON
- 1985-86 Retrospective, Jane Corkin Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1985 Canadian Festival of Fashion, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 This is Paradise, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, ON
- 2009 She Works Hard..., Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, MA
- 1995 Survivors in Search of a Voice: The Art of Courage, Touring Exhibition, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON, Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, ON, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina SK
- 1990-92 Children in Photography: 150 Years, National Traveling Exhibition

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Barbara Cole, Between Worlds. teNeues Publishing, Krefeld, Germany
- 2012 Peter Hay Halpert et.al. Identities Now: Contemporary Portrait Photography. New York: Peter Hay Halpert Fine Art, USA

PRESS AND MEDIA

- 2026 "A Day in the Life with: Toronto Photographer Barbara Cole". Chantal Canzanese, Toronto Guardian, Jan. 14
- 2026 "Barbara Cole's Shape of Water". Alexa Bouhelier-Ruelle, Here & There Series Artist Feature
- 2025 "In conversation with Barbara Cole". Olga Bondarenko, ouilya.com, Nov
- 2025 "Art in a Time of Social Distancing: Artist Barbara Cole Shares Her Thoughts". Colter Ruland, PR For Artists
- 2025 "Barbara Cole on Creating Timeless Images". Madison Beale, Artalogue S4 E11, Nov 28

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- 2022 "Interview with Barbara Cole". Chris Wahl, Grain Journal of Eclectic Writing, Nov 13
- 2021 "Exclusive Interview with Barbara Cole". Sandrine Hermand-Grisel, AllAboutPhoto.com, Aug 10
- 2021 "In Conversation With: Barbara Cole". Emerald Arguelles, aint-bad.com, Feb 1
- 2021 "These Photos of Underwater Flowers Look Like Paintings". DL Cade, PetaPixel, Jan 19
- 2020 "From Nirvana to 'weightless worlds': How photos evolved underwater". Ana Rosado, CNN Style, March 19
- 2019 "Q&A | Barbara Cole". Flaunt Magazine
- 2019 "Striking Underwater Portraits Reflect Artist's Own Mental Health Struggles [Interview]". Kelly Richman-Abdou, My Modern Met, June 14
- 2019 "Underwater photographs of rising, shimmering figures that look like oil paintings". Katy Cowan, Creative Boom, April 23
- 2018 Barbara Cole, Monograph II, Bau-Xi Gallery and Galerie LeRoyer
- 2016 "How photographer Barbara Cole turns her underwater photos into lush dreamscapes". Vibhu Gairola, Toronto Life Magazine, June 20
- 2013 "Barbara Cole Aquatiquement vôtre". Camille Griner, Boum!Bang!
- 2012 Barbara Cole, Monograph, Bau-Xi Gallery and Galerie LeRoyer
- 2011 "Metamorphosis of the Senses". Beatriz Diaz, FAHRENHEIT Contemporary Art Magazine, No. 46, Mexico
- 2011 "Barbara Cole". Bob Barrett. Documentary. Snapshot: The Art of Photography, II. Art TV, TVO and the Knowledge Network. 12 December 2011 and 22 March 2012
- 2010 "Le Chant des Sirènes". Anouchka Roggeman, Talon Haut Magazine, No. 7: 35, France
- 2010 "Barbara Cole". Aline Smithson, Lenscratch Photography Daily, Oct 21
- 2010 "Barbara Cole: A Toronto photographer goes beneath the surface to find beauty". Betty-Ann Jordan, Canadian House and Home Magazine, Oct: 70, Canada
- 2008 "Que Será Será: Wechselnde Frauenbilder". Thomas Macho, DU - das Kulturmagazin, No. 789, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2007 Artist Profile, NY Arts Magazine, Sept-Oct, New York, NY
- 2006 Artist Profile, Vision Magazine, March, Beijing, China
- 2005 Martin Dawber, Pixel Surgeons: Extreme Manipulation of the Figure in Photography, Book, Mitchell Beazley, UK
- 2005 The Fortunate Photographer, Camera Arts Magazine, Feb-Mar, Albuquerque, NM
- 2004 No Limits, PEI Magazine, Oct, Atlanta, GA
- 2004 Photo-Immersion, Photo Life Magazine, May, Toronto, ON
- 2004 Artist Profile, Fashion Television, Canada
- 1990 Children in Photography: 150 Years, Firefly Books, Toronto, ON

AWARDS AND PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS

- 2017 London International Creative Competition, Honorable Mention, Falling Through Time Series
- 2017 International Color Awards, Nomination, Kew at Night, Fashion; Nomination, Falling Through Time, Fine Art
- 2017 Tokyo International Foto Awards, Honorable Mention, Fine Art, Figure Painting

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- 2017 International Photography Awards, (IPA) Honorable Mention Fine Art, Falling Through Time
- 2017 International Colour Awards, Honorable Mention, Other, Falling Through Time; Honorable Mention, Moving Images for Forget-Me-Not Lenticular
- 2016 Prix de la Photographie Paris (PX3), People's Choice and 3rd Prize, Le Petit Prince
- 2016 International Colour Awards, Honorable Mention, Conceptual Photography, Le Petit Prince
- 2014 Duplicity, Third Prize, PX3 (Prix de la Photographie), Paris
- 2013 London International Creative Competition, Short List, Duplicity
- 2012 International Photography Awards, Barbara Cole Monograph, Honorable Mention, New York
- 2011 Photography Masters Cup, International Color Awards
Honorable Mention, Abstract Art: Chromatics, Three by Four
Nominee, Abstract Art: Chromatics, Red Stain
- 2010 Ontario Arts Council Mid-Career Visual Arts Grant
- 2009 Third Prize, IPA (International Photography Awards), New York, NY
- 2008 Grand Prize, the 6ème Festival International de la Photographie de Mode, Cannes, France
- 2008 Large-scale artwork installation: Drifter Triptych, at Trump Hollywood, FL
- 2007 Commission, M. Lau Breast Cancer Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Large-scale artwork installation and book created, Miami ONE, FL
- 1997 Toronto Collection, Manulife Building, Toronto, ON

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Bisha Hotel and Residences
Borden and Elliot
Burnac, Toronto
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Canyon Ranch
Frommer Lawrence & Haug
Galileo Equity Management
Griffiths McBurney and Partners
Herzig Eye Institute
Household Finance Corporation
Jonik Hospitality Group
Levrob Holdings
Manulife Financial Corporation
Mirax, Moscow
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Texas
N M Rothschild & Sons Canada
Osler, Hoskin, & Harcourt
Polaroid Corporation, Canada
Polaroid Corporation, USA
Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation
Protocol Entertainment
Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa
Rothschild Bank of Canada Ltd.
Ryerson University, Toronto
Siemens Credit
Sloan Mauran Interior Design
Toshiba, Canada

Winnipeg Art Gallery, Saskatchewan
Xerox of Canada
Yabu Pushelberg Design

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