

## Barbara Nessim Gives Archive to V&A



Internationally renowned artist and illustrator, Barbara Nessim has donated many of her most significant artworks to the V&A.

Nessim's distinctive line and style have graced the cover of nearly every major American magazine, including *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *New York Times*. Her work ranges from provocative drawings and paintings that represent her underlying

feminist views, to advertising campaigns for companies including Levis and Ralph Lauren. She was also one of the first professional illustrators to use the computer as an artistic tool. In a career that spans more than 50 years, Nessim is still actively working on new projects.

Nessim has given the V&A around 100 objects, mostly works on paper, which represent the incredible breadth of her output. Key works include *Star Girl* (1966), created whilst sharing an apartment with Gloria Steinem; the controversial *WomanGirl* series (1970s), used to illustrate censorship; shoe designs for Carber (1973); early computer graphics such as *Ode to the Statue of Liberty* (1984); an iconic cover image of John Lennon for *Rolling Stone* magazine (1988); and recent works for her *Model Project* (2009).

A display of the artist's work, *Barbara Nessim: An Artful Life*, will be shown at the V&A from 15 February to 19 May 2013. It will be the artist's first solo show in London and will present around 80 works spanning her output from the 1960s to the 2000s. It will include sketchbooks, prints, drawings, photographs, computer graphics, ceramics, artist's books and other printed publications.

Martin Roth, V&A Director, said: "*The V&A is delighted to acquire such a fabulous range of Barbara's work, from the 1960s to the present day. The highly distinctive drawings and watercolours she produced in the 60s and 70s are a wonderful evocation of the New York art, fashion and music scene. Her early computer graphics will greatly enhance the Museum's growing collection of digital art and design, whilst her fashion illustrations will certainly appeal to a wide range of visitors.*"

Coinciding with the display at the V&A is a new book, *Barbara Nessim: An Artful Life*, edited by the art writer and critic David Galloway, and published by Abrams in February 2013. The book explores her versatile career with essays by a dozen international authors, including the fashion critic Elyssa Dimant, the German art historian Christoph Benjamin Schulz, and Douglas Dodds, curator of the display at the V&A. Friends and colleagues such as Gloria Steinem, Milton Glaser, Ali MacGraw and Zandra Rhodes have also contributed their own reminiscences.

A newly commissioned film recorded in Nessim's New York studio will also be available on the V&A Channel – [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About Barbara Nessim**

The Bronx-born artist has also been an influential educator at New York's School of Visual Arts and at Parsons, The New School for Design. She is a studio artist who has worked in a wide variety of mediums, an illustrator and in her early career, a fashion designer. Among her most recent achievements is an installation of 13 digital paintings, one of them 28-feet-high, for the ballroom floors at Manhattan's Eventi, A Kimpton Hotel. Nessim was appointed the first Artist Laureate at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

[www.barbaranessim.com](http://www.barbaranessim.com)

- The display runs from 15 February to 19 May 2013 in the V&A's gallery 74
- Admission: FREE
- The display has been made possible by the American Friends of the V&A

**For further PRESS information about the acquisition and display please contact the V&A Press Office on 0207 942 2502 or email [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk)**

**For further PRESS information about the book please contact Jane Pickett, Publicity & Marketing Manager, Abrams & Chronicle Books on 0207 713 2066 or email [jpickett@abramsandchronicle.co.uk](mailto:jpickett@abramsandchronicle.co.uk)**

**A selection of high resolution images is available to download at <http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk>**