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LYNDA BARRY

Author, & Artist



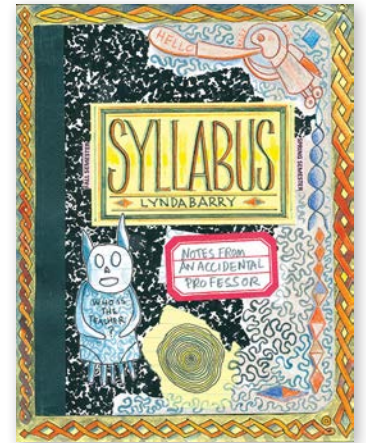
Lynda Barry has worked as a painter, cartoonist, writer, illustrator, playwright, editor, commentator and teacher and found they are very much alike. *The New York Times* has described Barry as “among this country’s greatest conjoiners of words and images, known for plumbing all kinds of touchy subjects in cartoons, comic strips and novels, both graphic and illustrated.” She earned a degree from Evergreen State College during its early experimental period (1974-

“Barry seems... almost singlehandedly to justify the form: She’s one of America’s best contemporary writers..”
— NYT Book Review

78), studying with painter and writing teacher, Marilyn Frasca. Frasca’s questions about the nature of images and the role they play in day-to-day living have guided Barry’s work ever since.

In 1979 while pursuing a career as a painter, Barry began drawing a weekly comic strip incorporating stories considered to be incompatible with comics at the time. Stories, as Barry puts it, “that had a lot of trouble in them.” Widely credited with expanding the literary, thematic and emotional range of American comics, Barry’s seminal comic strip, *Ernie Pook’s Comeek*, ran in alternative newspapers across North America for thirty years.

Barry has authored 21 books, worked as a commentator for NPR, and had a regular monthly feature in *Esquire*, *Mother Jones Magazine*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Salon*. She created an album-length spoken word collection of stories called *The Lynda Barry Experience* and was a frequent guest on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. She adapted her



“Barry is not just a storyteller, she’s an evangelist who urges people to pick up a pen—or a brush...and look at their own lives with fresh, forgiving eyes.”
—San Francisco Chronicle



Photo: Lynda Barry

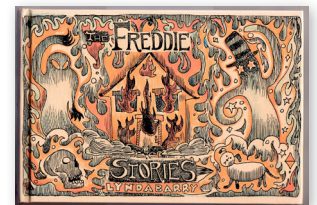
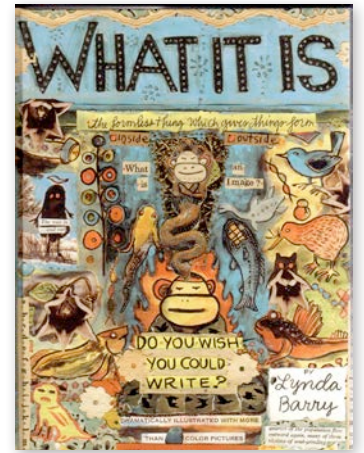
first novel, *The Good Times are Killing Me*, into a long running off-Broadway play, since published by Samuel French and performed throughout North America. Her book *One! Hundred! Demons!* was chosen as the Freshman all-read title at Stanford University. Her novel *Cruddy* was called “a work of terrible beauty” by the *New York Times*, and has been translated in to French, Italian, German, Catalan and Hebrew.

Lynda Barry’s “Writing the Unthinkable” workshop—especially designed for non-writers—was the subject of a *New York Times Magazine* article and is

the basis for her award-winning book *What It Is*. Barry is currently Associate Professor in Interdisciplinary Creativity, Director of the Image Lab at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, and the Chazen Family Distinguished Chair in Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At UWM she has also led writing workshops for the public, and hosted a ‘Seeing-Eye’-themed series of popular public talks with guests Ryan Knighton, blind writer and writing teacher; Ivan Brunetti and Chris Ware, legendary contemporary cartoonists; Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*; and Dan Chaon, acclaimed novelist and short story writer.

Barry has received numerous awards and honors for her work, among them two William Eisner awards, the American Library Association’s Alex Award, the Wisconsin Library Association’s RR Donnelly Award, the Washington State Governor’s Award, and the Holtz Center for Science & Technology Outreach Fellowship.

“Lynda Barry has no peer.”
—NYT Book Review



“In Barry’s work, the transcendent power of the imagination awaits.”

—Laura Miller, *Salon.com*

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