

AL VESSELLI
Artists Statement

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey. I was definitely a "city kid". We played stoop ball, stick ball, and on hot summer days we cooled off under an open fire hydrant.

When I was still very young, my family moved to the suburbs of New Jersey. It was not the easiest of transitions. The schools were different. The kids were different. They spoke funny! They said "oil". I said "earl". However, before long those kids became my lifelong friends. Jersey City, soon became a place where my Grandmother lived. We would pile into our 1957 Blue Plymouth and visit her almost every Sunday.

My childhood heroes were Willie Mays and Binney & Smith. Now, I knew Willie played center field for the Giants and could hit & catch a baseball like no one else. However, I didn't know if Binney & Smith were men or women. I only cared they were responsible for my Crayola Crayons box of sixty four.

I really can't remember my life before drawing & painting. I've been at this since Eisenhower was in the White House and Jawbreakers and Hostess Cupcakes were my sweets of choice. Today, I still have the same passion for art that I had back then. I feel very fortunate to have found my niche in life so early and I still love Hostess Cupcakes.