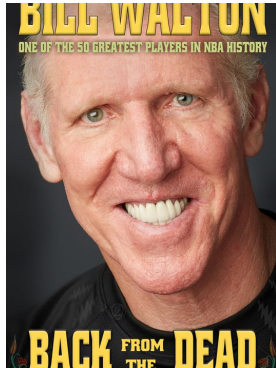


Bill Walton memoir showcases artwork by SUNY New Paltz graduate



John W. Barry, Poughkeepsie Journal 8:14 p.m. EDT April 27, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy image)

When retired NBA star [Bill Walton](#) was looking for an artist to help him craft the look of his new memoir, he turned to a [Woodstock \(/search/woodstock/\)](/search/woodstock/) resident who graduated from the [State University of New York at New Paltz \(/search/suny%20new%20paltz/\)](#).

“I’m excited and happy and proud to be a part of this,” Mike DuBois said. “Bill was so gracious with me.”

DuBois added, “He’s an incredibly nice guy.”

Walton’s memoir, “[Back from the Dead: Searching for the Sound, Shining the Light, and Throwing it Down](#),” has found an enthusiastic audience that is spurring sales. “Back from the Dead” on Wednesday was ranked sixth for April on the New York Times list of bestselling sports and fitness books.

And DuBois can take pride in that achievement.

Along with designing the book’s cover, he created drawings that appear inside “Back from the Dead.” [Artwork](#) by DuBois is featured at the beginning of chapters and at the beginning and end of the book. Covers for the book that DuBois designed for Walton, but were not used by publisher [Simon & Schuster](#), are also featured inside.

Walton played 13 years in the NBA and was a member of championship teams with the [Portland Trail Blazers](#) in 1977 and [Boston Celtics](#) in 1986, according to [www.nba.com](#). He received the league’s [Most Valuable Player](#) award; is a member of the [Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame](#); and was named one of the 50 greatest players in NBA History.

Walton is also a very big fan of the [Grateful Dead \(/story/life/2015/07/01/long-strange-trip-grateful-dead-valley-deadheads/29534941/\)](/story/life/2015/07/01/long-strange-trip-grateful-dead-valley-deadheads/29534941/). And that’s how he crossed paths with DuBois.

“He is a combination of [Michelangelo](#) and da Vinci and Picasso and Monet and Einstein and [Jerry Garcia](#) and an endless list of other people,” Walton said of DuBois.

“He has a visual imagination where he can transpose a thought to a piece of art and he sees the world in a joyful, happy and celebratory mood,” Walton said. “And he’s able to translate those emotions to printed material that inspires, that drives you to think.”

DuBois grew up in Syracuse and graduated from [SUNY New Paltz](#) in 1986 with degrees in visual arts and sociology.



SUNY New Paltz graduate and Woodstock resident Mike DuBois. (Photo: Jennifer May/Courtesy photo)

In college, he often created posters and promotional materials for the Innovative Studies Program and a student group, the Appropriate Technologies Association. DuBois was involved with both.

He began selling artwork outside of [Grateful Dead](#) concerts, which were legendary for their grassroots vending scenes in venue parking lots. He was later hired to create official artwork for the Grateful Dead and that led him to meet Walton several times over recent years.

“I knew Bill from my childhood,” said DuBois, who operates HappyLife Store and Gallery on Tinker Street in [Woodstock](#). “He was a basketball star I thought was cool.”

DuBois said Walton “was always a poster aficionado and collector of everything Grateful Dead.” And Walton grew fond of the artwork created by DuBois.

DuBois said his artwork reflects Walton's vision for the book. But it's also safe to say that it reflects Walton's passion for the Grateful Dead.

"I've been aware of Mike and his special talents for a very long time," Walton said. "I'm so grateful for what he did, to bring this project home and to make it what it is. I could not have done this project without Mike DuBois."

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More on Mike DuBois

- Artwork created by Woodstock resident and SUNY New Paltz graduate Mike DuBois will be featured as part of the stage design for the upcoming tour by [Dead & Company](#) ([/story/entertainment/2016/02/10/dead-company-john-mayer-schedule-stops-saratoga-citi-field/80189234/](#)).

This band features former members of the Grateful Dead and singer-songwriter and guitarist [John Mayer](#).

- As a child, DuBois and his family visited the historic [Huguenot Street](#) ([/story/news/local/2014/10/08/visiting-new-paltz/16947063/](#)) section of New Paltz, which dates to the late 1600s. Decades later, DuBois learned from his father, who enjoyed researching family history, that his family was descended from an original settler of New Paltz.