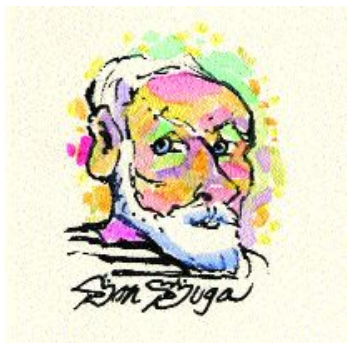


Art

# Don Duga - Visual Reporter

“All animation is inspired from life - it is exaggerated reality”.



Don Duga - self-portrait

Born in Hollywood California Don Duga began his artistic journey at the age of 5. His mother asked Don how he liked her drawing of a house...Don told her...She said...Oh ya...you think you could better?...she handed him a pencil and the rest is history.

Don went to art school at Chouinard institute in LA, California and was going to be a painter. He graduated in 1959 and was working as a waiter and painting at night. His drawing teacher Don Graham saw him working as a waiter and painting at night...“Get paid for your drawings”... Graham sent Duga to an Animation studio in Burbank California called UPA. He worked doing storyboards for Mister Magoo shorts. After learning the craft of animation he went to New York City, and got a staff job with Pelican films as art director doing commercials for TV...left to work in Milano doing Animated commercials for the Italians...came back to New York and worked as a freelancer for many Animation studios including Rankin/Bass, where he did storyboards, layouts and character designs on such films as “The Last Unicorn,” “Mad Monster Party,” Frosty the Snowman,” “A Year without Santa,” “The Little Drummer Boy” and many more.

In 1976 Don and Irra Verbitsky co-founded Polestar Films the well known Animation company where together they produce, direct and animate dozens of award winning films including many Sesame Street spots for New York, Kuwait, Israel and Mexico as well as the award winning children’s films for Scholastic which include the Carnegie medal for best children’s video.

Mr. Duga is a favorite amongst party goers for his delightful and colorful renderings ... Here are but a few

1 - Jessica Lange and Albert Maysles at The Film Society of Lincoln Center Gala Tribute to Jessica Lange.

2 - John Wegorzewski and Ed Callaghan at the Stella Adler Gala at the Pierre Hotel.

3 - Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy and baby John

4 - Paris Hilton and Tinkerbell

5 - Vicky Phillips

6 -Joyce Brooks at Vicky Phillip’s performance

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