

DREAM BAR®

Changing the World
One Drink at a Time

Join us May 17th at Sunny's Bar for the opening of **DREAM BAR®**, an exhibition of paintings and stories that celebrate iconic saloons and the bon vivants who make these bars an oasis of inspiration. Featuring works by **Jill DeGroff**, author of *Lushlife*; *Portraits from the Bar*, and **John Tebeau**, author of *Bars, Taverns, and Dives New Yorkers Love*.

For the occasion James Beard award-winning Mixologist **Dale DeGroff** has created the *Wanderlust Cocktail*, with **Ford's Gin Officers' Reserve**, the perfect libation for this hundred-year old saloon that served dock workers and longshoremen throughout its storied history.

Here's a sneak preview...

SUNNY'S BAR

253 Conover St, Brooklyn, NY

Friday, May 17th, 2019

6:00 to 8:00 pm





DEAD RABBIT
Acrylic on canvas 30" x 40"

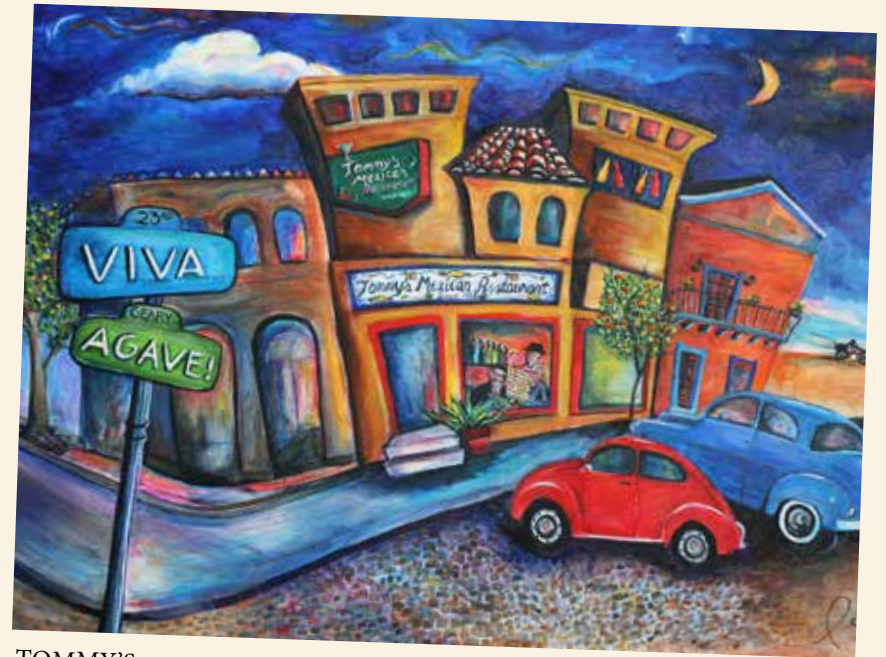
DEAD RABBIT
Acrylic on canvas 30" x 40"



DAMON BOELTE
Acrylic on canvas 12" x 36"



ELAINE'S
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40"



TOMMY'S
Acrylic on canvas 30 x 40"



LA FLORIDITA
Acrylic on canvas 24 x 36"

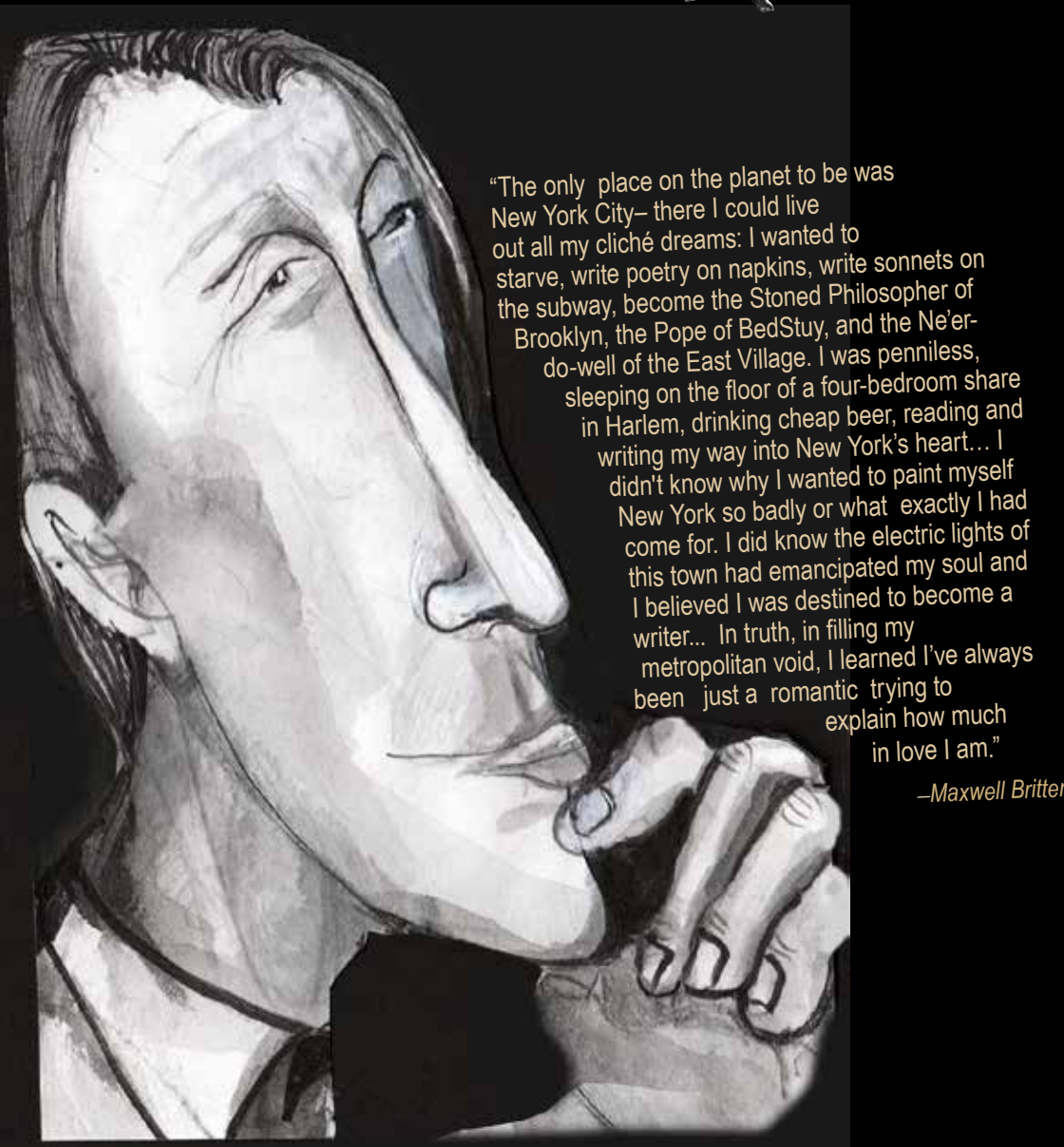
"Don't bother with churches,
government buildings or city squares.
If you want to know about a culture,
spend a night in its bars."

—Ernest Hemingway



ERNEST AND HAIRY
Watercolor on Arches 18 x 24"

The Characters and Bon Vivants



"The only place on the planet to be was New York City— there I could live out all my cliché dreams: I wanted to starve, write poetry on napkins, write sonnets on the subway, become the Stoned Philosopher of Brooklyn, the Pope of BedStuy, and the Ne'er-do-well of the East Village. I was penniless, sleeping on the floor of a four-bedroom share in Harlem, drinking cheap beer, reading and writing my way into New York's heart... I didn't know why I wanted to paint myself New York so badly or what exactly I had come for. I did know the electric lights of this town had emancipated my soul and I believed I was destined to become a writer... In truth, in filling my metropolitan void, I learned I've always been just a romantic trying to explain how much in love I am."

—Maxwell Britten



"I know everyone there, my special escape, just a neighborhood joint, not famous, just mine."

—Shawn Kelley



"Years ago I began collecting cocktail books. I soon realized that mixology was an amazing art, but we knew so little about those who invented it, like the great Jerry Thomas. That's what got me passionate; I wanted to take this art out of obscurity and let it stand next to the other great American traditions."

—David Wondrich

"We realized there were not many women talking about beverage and spirits, and almost no black women in the conversation at all. It was the perfect opportunity to become what we wanted to see in this industry. So we became the 'Cocktail Bandits'. It's amazing to think this all started because no one would hire us. Our mission is to show that you can create an opportunity out of anything you love to do!"

—Taneka Reaves (far right)
with Johnny Caldwell (left)



SALOON ARTIST

Jill DeGroff

Interpreter of Urban Cocktailian Culture

Jill DeGroff is a roving artist who plies her craft at saloons around the world. Musicians, writers, barflies and all species of cocktailians are her muse. Much of her work pays tribute to luminaries in the bar industry.

Jill is a graphic designer by trade and handles the marketing and promotion for *Dale DeGroff Co. Inc.* In 2005, with husband Dale DeGroff and seven colleagues -Anistatia and Jared Brown, Chris and Laura McMillian, Philip Greene, Robert Hess and Ted Haigh, established the first cocktail museum in the world: ***The Museum of the American Cocktail***, now part of the *National Food & Beverage Institute* in New Orleans.

Jill's book, ***LUSH LIFE; Portraits from the Bar***, (*Mud Puddle Books, 2009*) is an anthology of the colorful characters she met in bars over the years and the tales they shared. The book received glowing reviews in *Time Out NY*, *Village Voice*, *the New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Epicurious*, and *Serious Eats*.

Jill lives in Long Island with her husband, James Beard award-winning mixologist Dale DeGroff, whom she credits for getting her started on this unusual journey. Portfolio and press can be viewed at: <http://www.saloonartist.com>



Jill DeGroff
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DREAM BAR™

"Behind those tavern doors lies a world unto itself. For many it's a home away from home, a place to go not just for a good drink but also for comraderie and to hear some good stories; stories that help you figure out where you're going. I look for that old timer who makes their home there and then strike up a conversation. I love to sketch a great face and discover the soul behind it... the point is to get up close with humanity. As Joe Mitchell said: 'Get in the habit of looking at people, that's the sum of it, really.'" — Jill DeGroff