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High Resolution 300 DPI Artwork Images Available Upon Request
Interviews with Collection Curator Lynne Clifford Available Upon Request
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OCEAN GALLERIES WELCOMES THE ART OF JOHN LENNON
Unparalleled exhibition featuring the artwork of John Lennon comes to Stone Harbor, NJ

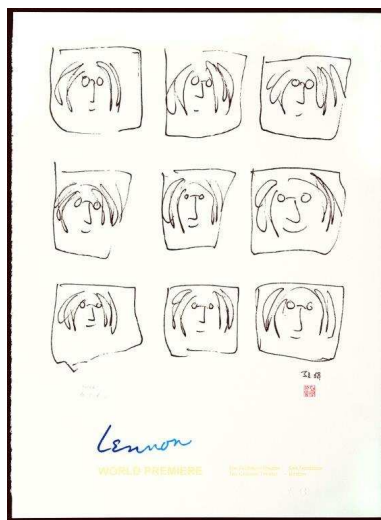


Image: Lennon
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STONE HARBOR, NJ – May 11, 2015 – [Ocean Galleries](#) (9618 Third Avenue, Stone Harbor, NJ) is honored to present an exhibition of the extraordinary works of John Lennon. An unparalleled collection, “The Art of John Lennon” will be on exhibit and available for acquisition from Thursday, June 18 through Monday, June 22, 2015, with Ocean Galleries open daily from 10:00 AM through 10:00 PM.

Special receptions with the Collection Curator, Lynne Clifford, will take place from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM on Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20, and from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 21. Ms. Clifford, an authority on the artwork of John Lennon, will be in the gallery and available to the public; speaking on the exhibited works and providing insight into the history and stories behind the artwork.

All events are complimentary and open to the public. Ms. Yoko Ono Lennon, who created the program, had the specific intent of helping local non-profit organizations in each city the exhibit visits. As such, Ocean Galleries will be asking guests to make a \$5 or more donation to the [Community FoodBank of New Jersey](#).

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Photo Credit: Nishi
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In his art, John Lennon, the legendary musician, songwriter, poet, philosopher, and artist, delivered a consistent message – peace and love. Art was actually his first love, as he began drawing long before he owned a guitar.

John Lennon’s artwork celebrates human love and communication – two themes at the heart of his contribution to the art of the twentieth century. His iconic *Self-Portrait* image has become the cornerstone of the collection. These posthumous, limited edition prints are adapted from Lennon’s original drawings. The art has been selected from rare archival sketches and is representative of his whimsical and thought provoking imagery. Each print is reproduced utilizing the sophisticated and detailed standards typical for archival fine art printing processes, guided, approved, and hand-signed by Yoko Ono.

In many ways, John Lennon was truly a renaissance man whose insights and perspective helped shape the sensibility of the contemporary mind. Born John Winston Lennon on October 9, 1940 in Liverpool, England, he died tragically on December 8, 1980. He married Yoko Ono at Gibraltar on March 20, 1969. On March 29, 1969, John and Yoko commenced their famous bed-in for peace at the Amsterdam Hilton.

While music will be remembered as his most popular art form, he loved both literature and his visual art, studying at Liverpool Art Institute from 1957-1960. He penned and illustrated three books: *In His Own White*, *A Spaniard in the Works*, and *Skywriting by Word of Mouth*.

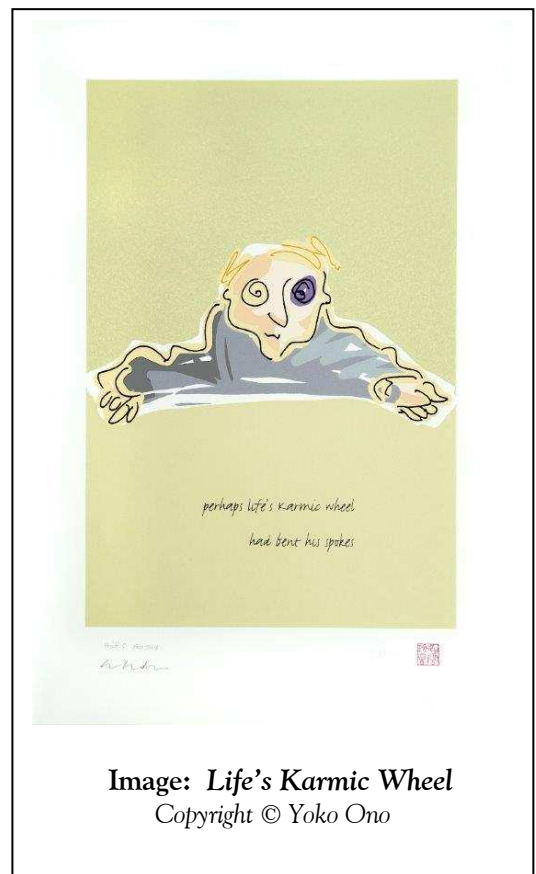
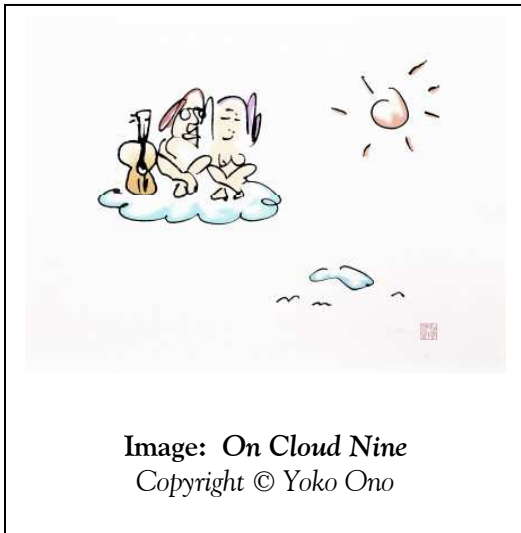


Image: Life’s Karmic Wheel
Copyright © Yoko Ono

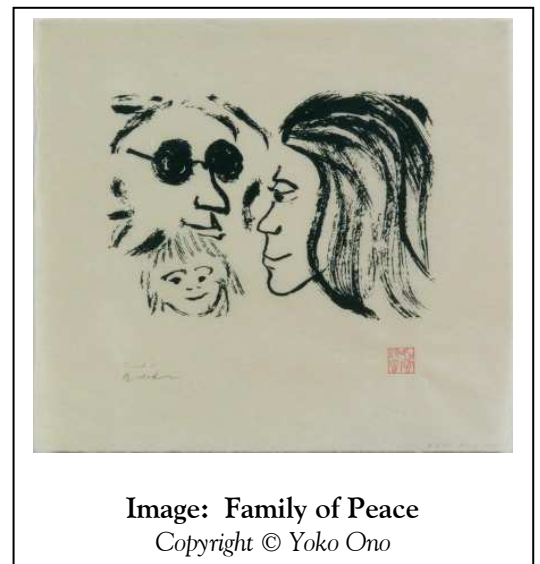
As early as 1969, John began moving toward a return to visual art. He was primarily interested in drawing and favored the creative loose sketch, working in pen and ink. In 1969, as a wedding gift for Yoko, John drew the *Bag One Portfolio*, a chronicle of their wedding ceremony, honeymoon, and their plea for world peace, the Bed-in. The suite also contained erotic sketches. The *Bag One Series* was first published and exhibited in January 1970 at the London Art Gallery. On the second day, the exhibition was closed by Scotland Yard and the erotic lithographs confiscated.



During 1986, Yoko Ono decided to share John's artistic genius with the public by publishing the first in a series of prints entitled *This is My Story Both Humble and True*, followed with *Bag One Continued...*, *Dakota Days*, *Karuizawa Series*, and *Japan Through John Lennon's Eyes*. These works are a commentary on John's everyday life, his wife, Yoko, and their son, Sean. The drawings are whimsical yet poetic, loving portraits of their years together. Drawn by one of the most important cultural figures of our time, these illustrations celebrate human love and communication - two themes at the heart of John Lennon's contribution to the art of the twentieth century.

Born and raised in Liverpool, England, as a teenager John Lennon became involved in music, forming his first band, the Quarrymen, which by 1960 had evolved into The Beatles, the most commercially successful band in the history of popular music. **Lennon was a visual artist before he picked up his first guitar or wrote his first song.** He attended the prestigious Liverpool Art Institute (1957-1960). He continued to draw throughout his life. Lennon's primary medium was line drawing, in either pen, pencil, or Japanese sumi ink. He not only penned, but also sketched the drawings that became illustrations for three bestselling books: *In His Own Write* (1964), *A Spaniard in the Works* (1965) and *Skywriting By Word of Mouth* (1987).

In the years that followed, Lennon expressed himself once again through drawing, this time reflecting his love for his family. Since 1989, **Bag One Arts** has published a series of limited edition prints of his work, which have traveled throughout the world. The graphic collection has traveled throughout the U.S., England, Spain, Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Manila.



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Special receptions with Lynne Clifford, the Collection Curator and authority on the artwork, will take place from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM on Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20, and from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 21.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested, which will be given to the Southern Branch of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, serving Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties. The Community FoodBank’s mission is to fight hunger and poverty in New Jersey by assisting those in need and seeking long-term solutions. They seek to engage, educate, and empower all sectors of society in the battle, and fill the emptiness caused by hunger with FOOD, HELP, and HOPE. For more information, visit <http://www.cfbnj.org/about/>



In addition to an extraordinary collection of artwork and custom-framing, Ocean Galleries also offers a variety of hand-made crafts from local, regional, and national artists in America, such as glass, pottery, jewelry, and furniture. All summer exhibitions take place at the Stone Harbor location of Ocean Galleries (9618 Third Avenue), which is open from 10:00 AM until 10:00 PM daily during the summer season. The Avalon location of Ocean Galleries (2199 Ocean Drive) is open from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday. For more information or directions, call 609-368-7777 or visit www.oceangalleries.com

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For 30 years, Ocean Galleries has provided quality art by contemporary artists to their clients while practicing the highest standards of credibility and integrity in a comfortable and unpretentious atmosphere. With locations in Stone Harbor and Avalon, New Jersey, the distinguished art galleries feature an ever-changing display of artwork that includes local artists’ watercolors, nationally recognized artists’ originals, popular beach prints, and limited editions. Ocean Galleries also carries fine furniture and hand-made crafts from America and around the world. Both locations have on-premises custom framing with design specialists and professional framers who can offer a wide selection of mouldings and an endless combination of traditional and custom-designed matting to complement and preserve any art. For more information, please call 609.368.7777 or visit www.oceangalleries.com