



FRANCES BARTH

"Ginger Smith and Billy Gee: An Optimistic and Utopian Tale"

A THEATRICAL READING WITH 7 ACTORS

directed by Ron Nakahara

SUNDAY JANUARY 21, 2018 at 5 PM

This beautiful book by Frances Barth, esteemed veteran painter, performer, educator, videographer, brings a funny, enigmatic, narrative which blends text and image in surprising ways. The seemingly simple yet deep story meshes beautifully with the visuals.

In this singular abstracted land, six characters drive forward the story in "*Ginger Smith and Billy Gee*" by the painter Frances Barth. In the family of a graphic novel, but also like a graphic poem, this is a book in two acts, with interspersed dreams of the main character Ginger. It turns its focus cinematically on the darkly comic relationship developing between Ginger, a painter, and Billy, an aspiring writer, after Ginger is dumped by Billy's best friend. Four other characters contribute to the richness of the story. Hiker 1 and Hiker 2 are like figures in a Greek Chorus commenting on the action and entering and leaving the story line, and Male and Female add a Freudian coda to the proceedings. This is a winsome and jaunty artist tale, humorous, poetic and symbolic.

About the author: Frances Barth's work is in many private and museum collections. Her painting exists in a realm between landscape, mapping and abstraction. For the past ten years Frances has also been working with animation and video, and has just finished her new animation "*Jonnie In The Lake*." In all these media she has developed elements of poetry and story telling. She was elected to The National Academy in 2011, and is a recipient of many awards, including: the Anonymous Was a Woman Grant, American Academy of Arts and Letters Purchase Awards, the Joan Mitchell Award, The Adolphe and Esther Gottlieb Individual Support Grant, two National Endowment for the Arts Grants, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship.