Reenie Barrow

In thinking About Bill Parker's influence on my work, so many memories come flooding back.

Walking into his office at the University of Connecticut, screwing up the courage to lay down the few prints newly accomplished, and waiting to hear if anything had merit. With his usual wit, intelligence, and eye that could find an idea germinating in your work, he left me practically running out the door to pursue this thread. I did. Before long, he told me I needed to educate myself about all things photographic…the history, movements and trends, and the work of others. Because I was self-taught with no formal education in photography, I could no longer be, in his words, "The Noble Savage." Meanwhile he was always interested to see my new work and make helpful suggestions and lavish praise when he thought I "did it."

After sitting in on all his history of photography classes at UConn and looking extensively at both historical and contemporary photography, he then enlisted me to teach intro and advanced classes at UConn when professors were on sabbatical.

He was showing my work in talks around the country and he included me in many shows he curated.

My passion for photography, which has never waned for 50 years I owe to Bill. He helped me see, get to the point, and make sure the viewer got it too.