

Laurie Simmons Learned How to Drive (From Cindy Sherman) for Love

By Vanita Salisbury



Name: Laurie Simmons

Age: 64

Neighborhood: Tribeca

Occupation: Artist, with a [show of new work](#) currently up at [Salon 94](#). On April 7, she and her husband Carroll Dunham will be honored at the New York Academy's Tribeca Ball.

Who's your favorite New Yorker, living or dead, real or fictional?

Kitty Carlisle Hart. I wanted to be her. So chic and urbane.

What's the best meal you've eaten in New York?

I used to get Japanese fried chicken and tekkamaki every Friday night at a conveyor-belt sushi place called Genroku on Fifth Avenue around 36th Street. Then I would hit the ten-dollar sale rack at Macy's, where you could find a stunning range of designer things nobody else wanted. After that I would meet up with my boyfriend, who got off work at midnight. This was a long time ago.

In one sentence, what do you actually do all day in your job?

Walk back and forth between my refrigerator, my computer, and my camera.

What was your first job in New York?

I painted apartments with a specialty in hanging vintage floral wallpapers – an *I Love Lucy*-style glue mess. I also babysat for a Bedlington terrier.

What's the last thing you saw on Broadway?

I saw Nico Muhly's opera, *Two Boys*, at the Met, and *Small Engine Repair*, directed by Jo Bonney, at the Lucille Lortel. I realize neither of those are on Broadway, but they should have been.

When's the last time you drove a car?

Last week. I love to drive, though I didn't really learn until I was 32. Cindy Sherman taught me in Syracuse where the roads were pretty empty because my then-boyfriend (current husband) told me that he would never marry someone who couldn't drive.

Finish this sentence: The NYPD _____.

Should make a calendar like the FDNY. (Or have they already?)

Times, Post, or Daily News?

All three if I have the time.

Where do you go to be alone?

I'm alone in the studio all the time. More interesting is where I go to be with people.

What makes someone a New Yorker?

A sharp tongue, a good sense of humor, and a pet they're obsessed with.



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