

Michael Vollbracht, Fashion Designer and Illustrator, Dies at 71

By [Ruth La Ferla](#)

June 12, 2018

If you had designs on acquiring status in late-1970s New York City, you would have likely been spotted around town toting a Bloomingdale’s shopping bag identifiable only by the splashy artwork on its side.

A partial profile of a woman with towering cheekbones rendered in red, black and gray, the illustration was the brainchild of Michael Vollbracht, an artist, illustrator and fashion designer whose work came to encapsulate that heady time.

Mr. Vollbracht’s runway creations drew crowds and reaped accolades. But it’s that bag, stowed in the archive at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York, and commanding high prices on eBay, that remains etched in many people’s consciousness, a vibrant expression of its creator, who died on Thursday at 71 at his home in Safety Harbor, Fla.

Roberta Greene, his former publicist and a longtime friend, said the cause was esophageal cancer.

Show Full Article