



Marianne Guarnieri

Wickford Art Association's
Featured Juried Artist Member
July 2017

My introduction into the world of art goes back to my high school days under the guidance of a wonderfully creative teacher we fondly referred to as Mrs. M. She was the first person to encourage me to pursue an education in the arts. I took her advice and was accepted into the Fine and Applied Arts Program at UMass Dartmouth where I spent the next year drawing, painting and creating artwork.

After marrying and raising a family, I returned to college part-time – to expand my skills in the field of Graphic Design – as I was now working as a typesetter. I was happy to be taking classes and creating artwork again...delving into the usual core classes – watercolor, oil painting as well as charcoal and pencil drawing. It was here that I developed an attraction to another art form – photography – another way for me to paint, I thought – with a camera! I will never forget my first time in the darkroom – learning how to process film (with all the usual chemicals) – and VOILÁ! The photo I had taken with a borrowed 35mm SLR camera was actually staring back at me in the chemical bath. This was so exciting – I was hooked! I couldn't wait to get to work the next day to share my excitement with my Art Director and mentor – a seasoned and professional photographer himself.

I continued my work as a Graphic Designer, where I was continually exposed to and involved in on-location photo shoots as well as in-house product photography. Watching, learning and asking questions of these professional photographers helped me to improve my own photographic skills and continue to create art through my lens...always enjoying photography as a hobby.

Fast forward to the past several years – with the urging of my closest friend – I joined the Wickford Art Association's Photography Group and really began to take my photographic art more seriously, taking it to another level. Learning, sharing and shooting with this group has been most rewarding and has given me a renewed passion for this art form. It has re-awakened me to observe my surroundings more closely – to document the usual with an unusual and sometimes abstract flair. Capturing the decorative way nature has painted a flower – the exquisite curves of its petals...artfully documenting the beauty of nature's reflections...creating a graphic statement in the architectural landscape of a city – is my way of expressing and sharing – hoping the viewer is moved by seeing the everyday translated in a unique way.

As a Juried Artist Member of the Wickford Art Association, I am fortunate to be surrounded by wonderfully creative people and am humbled by the talent of these incredible artists.