



ART: A Path to Follow

Marlene Kohn

I am grateful how art has shaped my life. My grandmother, Freda, was my first mentor who ignited my creative ability. She was a tailor who designed and created anything from drapery to upholstery to women's clothes. Often, a design she spotted at an upscale department store was "borrowed" and perfected on her sewing mannequin. My grandmother taught me to sew, knit and cook. Sewing was my first form of art, and it is still a medium I use in my art to this day.



As a child, I was always drawing and painting, despite never being offered art classes in elementary school. My parents suggested I sign up for an art class in eighth grade. I fell in love with formal art instruction. In 10th grade, my art teacher suggested that I should attend a Saturday art class at Carnegie Technology University. My history, destiny or path was set.





The first day I walked into my art classroom at the university, I felt a sense of belonging. I knew what I wanted to do with my life. I now had a path to follow. I continued to take Saturday and Summer art classes at Carnegie Tech until I graduated high school.

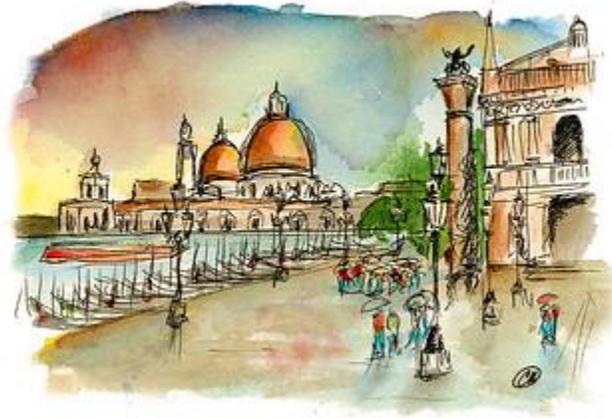


I decided to become an art teacher after I helped my art teacher teach a 7th grade class my senior year. I taught elementary school art for 33 years. To be able combine my love of art with teaching was a joy. I got as much satisfaction and pleasure from teaching my students as I did create my own art. Teaching art for me was not a job but a passion.

I have used my artistic abilities to help different organizations with centerpieces and room designs. Through my artistic endeavors I have made lasting friendships that I am grateful for.



My art has also led to many exciting travels. I have shown my work in Mexico, New York, Paris, and Venice.



Art has been the only constant in my life. My art comes as naturally as breathing. It is something that I just do; something I cannot live without.





!Art has sustained me through many periods of my life where things were not always wonderful such as the Covid pandemic and my husband's illness. I am grateful for my art that it is helping to get me through this period in my life.



I go to my art studio and start working and forget everything else except creating art. My mind becomes forced only on my art. No matter what is going on in my life I have always had my art to get me through.

