

Artist Biography – Mary Mahon-Foley

A love of art was instilled in me at an early age by my mother. Not an artist, but an appreciator, she made sure all her children were exposed to all kinds of art and culture. Growing up near New York City gave us many opportunities to experience great museums and galleries. As a child and teen, I spent hours drawing, particularly horses and other animals. It was a great escape from my 3 other siblings! After high school, I didn't continue with formal art classes, instead focusing on performing arts. Art found me again later in my life as I re-discovered the joy of creating in different art forms: photography, pottery and more recently card-making.

Since moving to New Mexico in 2001, I have been inspired to create by the beauty and colors that surround me. I feel that I have come home and am able to honor my mother's gift to me. I have continued to take classes and workshops in different art forms, feeling the need for creative outlets more than ever as my work life has not nourished that part of me. I have been fortunate to take classes at CNM with wonderful instructors like Lea Anderson and Lyn Pierre. A class in printmaking captivated me, from very process-oriented steps to magical results! I have continued to study with Lyn in order to develop my skills in different types of printmaking. I also love mixed media as it allows me to combine different art forms, it suits the "dabbler" in me who wants to play and discover. Art gives me a renewed focus, allowing me to look back through the past at where I have been and what I have learned, and to look forward to the future (retirement!) and more time to create. I want to add layers and texture to my life and continue to nourish a sense of wonder. My vision is to contribute more beauty and color to the world, which is now needed more than ever.

Exhibits include Tortuga Gallery, Gallery 5G, Gallery ABQ, and the Placitas Community Library