

## Maureen DeSisto

### Artist Statement:

When I begin a painting, I do not merely copy photographs that inspire me. I add something to the scene. I photograph landscapes of New England and I am inspired by them. I compose each scene in the camera lens and think about how this translates to a canvas later. I use the camera as a tool and with my past photography background helping me, I try to embrace the new digital photography age. I do not like technology taking over the artwork, such as computers used to manipulate images.

I use acrylic paint and draw directly with the paintbrush on the canvas—no grids or pencil sketching. A subject has to mean something or represent something for me to want to paint it. I like the idea that painting in strictly black and white acrylic paint strips down the scene to the shapes and raw image. Some subjects lend themselves to black and white like the painting I have done of my late father playing the accordion. The image is stark and color is absent so the viewer focuses on the subject and shapes and shadows.

I like to explore nostalgia—carousels, old cars, brick mill buildings with smokestacks, old buildings, local landmarks, and activities like women sweeping porches; things that evoke deep feelings from the viewer and bring back memories.

I studied with Bill Swank of Salem, NH when I was 11 years old and continued onto art school earning a BFA in Illustration and studying with Mass Art's Illustration faculty, Irena Roman, and the late Floyd Covert.

Enterprise Bank of Methuen MA has the Historical Searles Building and Nevins Library Paintings in their permanent collection.