



Gayle Soloe

Art has been a part of my life since childhood when my mother encouraged me starting at a very young age. I can still remember the finger paints – the smell and the oddly slick paper- that may have started me down the convoluted path to where I currently find myself and my relationship to art.

I was constantly drawing throughout my early education: Sometimes it got me into trouble when I drew in the margins of my composition books instead of listening raptly to my 7th grade teacher. Or sometimes it was a saving grace, as when I produced great posters and projects for my high school Latin class and upped my grade point average.

When the time came to consider higher education, I only wanted to study some form of art and I chose to study Fashion Design at RPI which became VCU during the time I was there. In the late 60's, choosing to study art was always considered a bit risky. “How do you expect to make a living?” was the important question of the day. Graduating in 1970 at the start of a period of economic recession added extra challenge, closely followed by marriage and family. My particular saving grace was probably knowing how to type.

During my college years, I participated in a fashion and art history class trip to Europe, and that opened doors to my current career in the travel business. In the latest phase of 37 years in travel, I am currently a self-employed independent advisor and agency owner. As that part of my life is winding down a bit, I decided to pursue the art interest of my youth. I started taking acrylic painting lessons at Crossroads Art Center and found great pleasure in pushing paint. I have now moved to mostly painting in oil, and have enjoyed the greater scope it has allowed. And I find that many of my travel photos tell a story that I can share in my art.