SUSAN ZALESKY

I was born and raised in Red Bank, New Jersey, which is considered part of the Jersey Shore since Sea Bright and Sandy Hook are a bike's ride away. I have been drawing and painting since a child. My parents encouraged this by buying me paint- by- number kits as gifts—back in the 50s, it was a cultural hobby. Digital art often reminds me of those kits for some reason.

I prefer working in watercolor because it can't be controlled. There is something elusive and delightful that happens in watercolor when transparent and opaque colors blend on paper— there is also a special light to it. It is that *je ne sais quoi* that captivates my eye and soul.

As a teenager, I studied watercolor with Yvonne Aubert, founder of the Guild of Creative Art (the oldest and largest art community of its kind in NJ); and drawing with Betty Hart at the Guild. After graduating high school in 1969, I attended Traphagen School of Design in Gramercy Park, New York City, studying anatomy, costume design, water color, and calligraphy.

A few years later, I lived in San Francisco, CA and took studio painting with Brook Temple, a student of Josef Albers; and studied Industrial Design (mold and packaging design) with Arthur Irwin.

In the early 1970s I moved to Gaithersburg, MD and became involved with the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association for a few years. At that time, I studied mime with Craig Babcock at Glen Echo Park and occasionally performed. I was also writing poetry then (the Writer's Center was also located in Glen Echo at the time) and was included in a University of MD anthology of women poets.

I resumed painting on a more regular basis in 2004, once my youngest left the nest. Besides painting and playing the piano, I like to play with paper and boxes— making dioramas. Sometimes I just like to tear things apart and reconstruct them.

Please visit: www.susanzalesky.com.