
5 Minutes with a ViewPoint Member

An Interview with Anne Bastedo

by Angela Creaser, November 2015

Angela: Photography wasn't your first choice of a career, you were a lawyer. Was photography something you've always wanted to do?

Anne: Yes, in fact it is something that I have done since I was very young. When I was about 9 or 10 I was given a [Brownie box camera](#) by my parents, and I always remember enjoying taking photographs. So I've loved it all my life.

Angela: You were a juried member of the [Nova Scotia Designer Crafts Council](#) (NSDCC) before becoming a member of [ViewPoint Gallery](#). Why did you join both and how are they different?



Anne: When I become interested in photography more seriously, I decided to start small and test the waters by selling my photography at the [Dartmouth Farmers Market](#). It was small and fairly low key but it gave me an idea of how other people sold things. Next, I tried the [Halifax Farmers Market](#) when it was at Historic Properties. I enjoyed that experience and got very good feedback on my photography and sold cards and prints. It really buoyed me for my next step which was to sell at the Nova Scotia Designer Crafts Council (NSDCC) shows that I had gone to for years as a customer and always loved because the work was all local and handmade. I applied, was accepted, and after about 2 shows at the NSDCC I successfully applied to be a member at ViewPoint Gallery. I was introduced to ViewPoint Gallery by [Sandy Leim](#), one of ViewPoint's founding members, who was also selling work through the NSDCC. The NSDCC is more about selling photography where ViewPoint is more about showing your photography. I was very excited about being part of a group of photographers working in a collaborative atmosphere in a cooperative. All of those things are very important to me.

Angela: Is there an element of photography you enjoy working with most? Why?

Anne: I love the feeling of getting lost in the act of composing images – when I see something I think is outstanding in some way – something that is beautiful. It's one of the reasons I

photograph nature and architecture. Just the act of composing is very satisfying. This may be surprising to some, but I also love working on images through post-production.



Angela: You travel a lot; what is your favourite or most inspirational place?

Anne: *That is a complicated question for me in the sense that my favourite place to be is at my cottage, but I'm not sure it's my most inspirational. There are photographers like [Freeman Patterson](#), who can say something like "I walk out into my backyard every day with the goal of taking at least one good photograph each day" but I am at the point where I feel I can't do that anymore at my cottage. I need a new source of inspiration.*

Angela: What is one of your favourite images of all time that you have created?

Anne: *Serenity, which I named my business after.*

Serenity is a photograph of the shoreline on the lake where our cottage is located. I was in a canoe, it had been raining, and was a dull day, but I managed to take a picture of the shoreline that even today stands out to me and I love.

Angela: What is your dream project?

Anne: *My dream project would not be a place as much as a condition. The condition would be being able to photograph in a totally uninhibited fashion. What I mean by that is not being hindered by time. I would be somewhere where I'm not traveling with other people or photographers and having to match their speed. It would be where I have the time and the freedom, where everything was provided for me (food etc.) and photography was the main thing I was supposed to do and nothing else. That is my dream project.*

Angela: We have time for five quick questions. What is your...



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| Favorite colour? | Mauve |
| Favorite animal/s? | Birds (Anne has two Cockatiels and a standard poodle. The birds won.) |
| Favorite season? | Fall |
| Favorite movie? | Too many |
| Favorite movie? | Too many |

For more information about Anne Bastedo, please visit [Anne](#)'s page on the ViewPoint website.