

# Robert A. Gold ~ Digital Multi-Media Artist's Biography:

I was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1945. I became interested in art at an early age, doing pencil drawings from a John Gnagy kit, and watching art programs on Saturday morning television. Because of learning disabilities unbeknownst to my family, school was difficult for me all my life. The physical manipulation of objects became my learning mechanism. I would take apart broken electronics and fix them, learning from the process of experimentation, trial and error.

I attended Heidelberg College, and then went on to the NYU and Harvard Schools of Dentistry. I was a Dentist for 25 years in Manchester, NH. Art continued to play a prominent role in my life. Stretching the boundaries of my subject's intended purpose was my inspiration. I repurposed many of my instruments to fashion life-like sculptures out of rudimentary dental plaster. Dental molding materials were shaped into impressions of friends' faces, and gold crowns were recast into jewelry.

I began to experiment with the image transfer process in the 1980s. Using 35mm and Polaroid film, I developed photos onto watercolor paper, and manipulated the images with paints and pens. The altered images took on a surreal quality, breathing new life into the photo originals.

The year 1998 brought many challenges to my life. I became bed-ridden for two years due to complications from back surgery; I lost my ability to practice dentistry. I moved to Vermont in 2007 and began to rehabilitate myself through an Assisted Living Program and art. Progress came quickly, and I was able focus on art once again. I began to take photos and manipulate them, this time digitally. Due to my ADD and learning disabilities, I could not read the Photoshop software handbook, so I experimented with altering images and taught myself very unconventional methods to use the software. The results were immediate and exceptional. Photoshop enabled me to re-invent my earlier image-transfer process. The method was different, but the concept was the same: moving beyond a photo original and broadening its potential with vibrant colors and textures. Digital photography and giclée printmaking allowed a transition from photographic film to fine art digital printing.

Inspired by the stories of other Vermont artists and with the support of the Vermont Council of Arts, I am empowered to strive to make a living marketing my art. I have participated in some printmaking workshops with Jon Cone who has inspired me to go LARGE with my work, which has reinvigorated my art. Recently, the Vermont Studio Center has awarded me a month-long residency period that I am attending in August/September 2011.

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