Fred Vallade

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Art has provided me with the creative outlet I require in order to properly function since childhood. I am inspired by almost everything throughout my day and creating art is the most natural response to that. Color, texture and depth (or lack thereof) are very important aspects of my work.

Born and raised in Altoona, PA, I was drawn to the city of New York at the age of 19. It wasn't until reaching NYC that I was able and inspired to pursue my desire to paint, create, and express myself through my work. I spent the next 30 years in and around the New York area (Long Island and Connecticut).

Painted in oils and acrylics for several years, however, my discovery of a new meaning of art through graphics was a new found fulfillment to me of a desire to communicate one's personal convictions. Being an artist, influenced by the pulse beat of our times, you have to be ever searching and experimenting to be able to impart one's personal feelings to a receptive public. Graphic art was another form of expression in the vocabulary of an artist, however, in contemporary graphic art there was a living and exciting movement.

Printmaking as a medium has been a truly unique and rewarding experience for me. I was provided a wealth of new materials and techniques that only modern technology made possible.

In 1993, I decided to relocate to the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Duck with my ever inspiring wife. After 21 years of concentrating on very realistic black and white etchings, I had gotten to the point where I was having a difficult time seeing the fine lines and decided it was time for a change. Since this move was a new beginning for us, I decided I needed a new direction in my art career and CLAY was chosen and a new adventure had begun. My daughter, Karen, who has a degree in ceramic arts, was an influence.

After a few years, I decided to again take up painting including mixed media. I am still working in clay and feel that they compliment each other. I can truly say that I have finally reached a point in my journeys where I am really having fun and not worrying about the anxieties of coming up with an idea, executing that idea, and loving the outcome. Almost all the time I begin most of my work with no preconceived idea but rather just intuition and whatever at the time to guide me.

I feel appropriate to paraphrase T.S. Eliot by saying - "I feel it unnecessary to explain art, a process which too often results in explaining it away." Personally, I'd rather not speak of my work or myself (to me, they're one in the same). I feel one is what one does and what one does is the statement of who one is.