

Artist's statement

We all take pictures as a way to record images that have appeal and meaning. Sometimes that's enough, but at other times these images are only a starting point for deeper exploration.

I started taking pictures when film and flashbulbs were expensive, and processing was entirely beyond my control. The discipline I learned was to try to make every shot count. Today, the relatively low cost of digital photography and the accessibility of free editing software allows us greater freedom to experiment and to make mistakes. This is a good thing, but it can also make us sloppy or complacent. Not everything can be fixed after the fact. In an environment thoroughly saturated with images, it is also increasingly difficult to say something unique.

I believe that the art of photography lies in finding the compositions that exist as found in the world. The craft of composition is one of framing those images within the viewfinder so that they have aesthetic integrity—I call it 'dividing the rectangle.' The act of clicking the shutter is not the final act in photography. After it comes discernment, judgment, and work to reveal the image in its most compelling form, or in other words, to produce a true representation of the idea that attracted you in the first place.

I never get tired of looking. There is beauty in everything if we simply pay attention. The universe is a great, great gift that all too often goes unnoticed and unacknowledged. I'm trying to change that.

Carol Traveny is a native of Ridgway in north central Pennsylvania. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Penn State where she studied under Stephen Porter (sculpture) and Ken Graves (photography). She has participated in a number of local and regional art shows and has received awards for drawing, photography and watercolor.

In 2005 she received a Master of Library and Information Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and has been the Technical Services Librarian at the Swedenborg Library since then. She lives with her husband, Tom Bishop, and their two cats in Telford, PA.

Carol's work is continuously inspired by the natural world and the built environment. She is especially interested in the concept of 'place' and how we perceive our surroundings— both intimately and globally. Recently she has become passionate about color and has begun to explore its possibilities in various media. This exhibit represents her first experiments with digital photography using Google's Picasa photo editing application.