

Rev. Diane Hardy Waller

As an ordained minister, Diane Waller considers art to be her ministry. So as you view her work, you are in her church. Her journey to this awareness, however, has taken many years.

When she was a young child, art in every form was a strong element of Diane's life. But her early academic and career paths diverged from these interests. Only after successful careers in engineering, business, and sales did she come to realize that her true calling is to create. It is through her art--painting, photography and ceramic arts—that she now expresses herself, and communicates her connection and gratitude to the Divine Source of all.

Diane's photographs appear in exhibitions throughout the year in the tri-state area, and are in private collections across the United States and Europe. Her paintings have been exhibited widely; and her whimsical pottery is included in numerous individual collections in the tri-state area, plus California, Florida and London. Diane works simultaneously in all three media, often combining them for arresting effects. For example, her pottery often displays her painting or photographs and her photographs serve as inspiration for her painting.

Her photographs appear in three books for children, of which the most recent is, *Does God Hear My Prayer?* written by Rev. August Gold. You can also see her work in signage and publications throughout the Bronx Zoo. Some of her mixed media images were available online for the month of March and are still in the archives at [www.upstreampeoplesgallery.com](http://www.upstreampeoplesgallery.com). Most recently, her paintings have graced the lobby of the Manhattan Borough President's Office, as part of an exhibit for Women's History Month, and have been shown at the Art Students League. Her pottery is exhibited regularly at the La Mano Studio Gallery.

Diane credits Ernestine Ruben and Katherine Criss as her photography mentors. Nicky Orbach, Joseph Peller, and Frank O'Cain have all influenced her development as a painter. Her work in clay has been largely self taught in a teaching studio, La Mano Pottery, which she co-owns with eight other ceramic artists.