



## Biography - John R. Iarussi “Lasting Impressions”

Growing up, I was always passionate about creating art. I built toys out of scraps of wood, made scrimshaw carvings out of discarded dinner bones and painted bright modernist/ cubist watercolors on shirt cardboards. There was always something new to discover, devise and design. Even at an early age I was exposed to every aspect of the visual arts. My dad was a RISD educated jewelry designer and accomplished Watercolorist. I loved to spend hours looking at his latest designs and stunning color renderings. As a family we constantly frequented museums, galleries and studios of dad’s friends from Provincetown to Ogunquit and beyond. From there, I learned and loved to create.

At age 14, I was privileged enough to win a statewide art competition and my first appointment to the Rhode Island Governor’s School for the Gifted. I studied drawing and made some early attempts at traditional watercolor. I was absolutely hooked on all aspects of art.

I attended **American University** in Washington, DC but my true compassion and focus on impressionism started after college. I spent time in Provincetown where I fell in love with the stunning beauty and interplay of light and color unique only to the “Outer Cape”. I was drawn to the “**Cape School**” style of Impressionism and long tradition of “en plein aire” originally brought to Provincetown by **Charles Hawthorne** in 1899. I was captivated by the use and blending raw colors to express the effects of light and shadows. I was fortunate to meet a collective of likeminded artists and worked with several. Most notably, I studied for 5 years directly with **Lois Griffel**; award winning artist, publisher and the third director of the world renowned “**Cape Cod School of Art**”. Lois follows in a long tradition of American Impressionist Painters and carries on the strict training of her predecessors **Charles Hawthorne** and **Henry Hensche**. Some 30+ years later, I continue to follow in their tradition that has also become my own passion. I am proud to say that my work resides across the U.S. and even Switzerland. My hope is, those simple moments in time I endeavored to capture in my work will survive for generations.

My love of art has never diminished over the years and I still venture to try new things. Above all else, I will always remain steadfast to my love for Impressionism. Look for me; I will be painting outdoors, palette knife in hand and brilliant colors at the ready. I will be swept up in the momentary drama of light and shadow, determined to capture in my work, a beautiful fleeting moment in time as a **Lasting Impression** forever.

### Memberships and Affiliations:

Kittery Art Association

York Art Association

Artists of Salmon Falls Mills