

A Story of Everlasting Creativity by Holly Reed

When you first meet artist Butch Wandy, you will discover that his personality matches the many layers of his photographic genius and creative talent. Butch can be affable, philosophical, funny, or businesslike, whatever the situation calls for – and his photographic wizardry can mystify and tantalize all at the same time.

Butch is the winner of the 2016 Purchase Award with his artwork titled “DNA Warp”, announced during the annual East Hartford Art League Spring Art Fest. “DNA Warp” is now on permanent display at the Raymond Public Library, joining other Purchase Award winners whose art helps to define our town.

As he was awarding the prizes at the Spring Art Fest, Judge Clinton Deckert said, “This artwork by Butch Wandy, “DNA Warp”, presents an opportunity for the viewer to become intellectually involved with the artist’s point of view. Butch is famous for pushing the envelope just a little further than expected, and his artwork will raise the bar for East Hartford.”

Butch explains that the process he utilizes, prismatic imaging, is a highly specialized processing of film and a process he discovered. For over 40 years as a working artist, his has been a story of everlasting creativity. He uses an Olympus OM-4T camera and Fuji film to create his photos and turn them into masterpieces. Says Butch, “Through careful use of my camera in a process I call “micro-structured imaging”, I create unique images that are not photo-shopped or computer generated.”

Born in Hartford CT, Butch lived with his family in the southwest corner of the city, right around the corner from the family bakery called Wandy’s Pies. This was a family business started by his grandmother during the depression years, and run by the Wandy family for many years.

His earliest memories are of attending art classes at the Wadsworth Athenium as a kid, and how happy he was when surrounded by art and artists of all kinds. He said to himself, I want to be an artist.

A UCONN graduate (1963), East Hartford is lucky to have Butch Wandy as one of our artists-in-residence at the Community Center. Butch is always available to help out with the town’s Art League presentations, as well as giving advice and moral support for all of us involved in art. Along with his innovative approach to imaging, Butch was also one of the first pioneers to utilize ink-jet printing on silk back in 1997.

Butch has gone on to succeed in a career in art. He has won awards from the National Arts Program, the Canton Artists Guild, the East Hartford Art League, and currently has two pieces entered in the CT Academy of Fine Arts show. Most importantly, Butch has succeeded in life, staying happy, busy, and engaged in art, something he truly loves.



“DNA Warp”, prismatic imagery, by artist Butch Wandy

The East Hartford Art League Mission Statement is to provide greater opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Art in our community, bringing together artists, residents and students in order to achieve this objective. For more information, please go to www.easthartfordartleague.org Or contact Holly Reed at 860-528-2210.