

# Maya's Spring Celebration – the Art of Diane Walker

Posted on [April 24, 2013](#) by [Janet Muniz](#)

Maya's Spring Celebration is a special evening in the Studio that features a kirtan - the devotional singing of ancient Sanskrit mantras derived from the Bhakti tradition - and the opening of an art exhibit.



This Sunday, April 28, meet Bainbridge artist and author **Diane Walker**, who is thrilled that Maya is making it possible to show both sides of her work in one place - photography and painting.

A poet and writer most of her life, Diane didn't discover photography until she was in her 40's. "What drew me to it was this sense that the pictures were being taken through me more than by me," she says. "It just sort of happened, with so much ease and joy - which was quite exhilarating; I felt like I had finally figured out what I was born to do."

As Diane developed a daily meditation practice, she discovered that her photographs have a contemplative feel to them. "It seemed natural to pair the poetry that emerged from my meditation practice with the images, which is how I ended up producing *A Contemplative Photographer's Alphabet*."



On display at Maya this night only, *A Contemplative Photographer's Alphabet* is a traveling exhibit of 25 canvases of photographs accompanied by poetry. The individual works, as well as Diane's book that features all 25 pieces, is available for purchase this evening.

*"In a sense the photography prepared me for the painting; certainly it gave me a strong sense of composition and color. Now I have to do the work, which feels very exposed. There's more of me involved. I become the instrument."*



Throughout all the years of taking photos, Diane dreamed of painting, but was terrified to try it. "Photography was a way to do art without actually having to wield a brush and risk failure," she says. Yet, earlier this year she gave it a go. "I could see that it was important to honor the impulse. So, for Lent - that 40-day period before Easter which I honor as a time to either give up something that gets in the way of my spiritual practice or take on something that can become a spiritual practice - I decided to paint every day. I've still got a long way to go, but I'm very pleased with the results."

Beginning this Sunday April 28, an exhibit of Diane's paintings and mixed media work from that period will be on display at Maya and available for purchase through July.

Diane finds the spiritual practice of painting more challenging than photography, likening it to the way yoga can be more challenging than meditation. "It's not enough to go into that space where you feel more attuned with spirit, or energy. But you have to allow it to express itself through you, through movement. The best works emerge when I allow that spirit to flow through me onto the canvas without thinking about what it is I'm trying to create."

For Diane, Maya's exhibit of both the photographic meditations and the paintings expresses a sort of whole health of its own, "something I'm only beginning to grasp," she says.

## Maya's Spring Celebration

Mix & Mingle ... Meet the Artist ... Prize Drawing\*

Sunday April 28 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Art Show | Kirtan | Potluck Menu

Please bring a small dish or beverage to share with the Maya community.

Please RSVP | [studio@mayawholehealth.com](mailto:studio@mayawholehealth.com) | 425.271.0200 | [Facebook](#)

\*Thank you for your continued support in completing Maya's Class Evaluations. All names of those who signed the forms have been entered into a random drawing for prizes taking place tonight. No need to be present to win.

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