

# Julie O'Connor

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## Artist & Author Bio

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Julie O'Connor is a fine art photographer and photojournalist who has traveled the world in search of powerful and poetic images for more than 30 years. After her experiences in Tibet, she created the "Doors of Tibet" art poster, as well as a series of fine art images, note cards and post cards of Tibet, which are now on sale in museum stores and Asian arts stores across America and through her website:

[www.JulieOConnor.com](http://www.JulieOConnor.com)

Inspired and informed by her work on the Doors of Tibet, Julie went on to publish *Doors of Weston*, a book based on her photographs of doors in her hometown of Weston, CT. During the summer of 2006, the local newspaper, the Weston Forum, published a 9-part series on the doors of Weston, utilizing Julie's photographs. The newspaper went on to win a New England Press Association (NEPA) award for community involvement for this innovative series. Julie continued to photograph throughout 2007 and 2008, finally culminating in the publication of her fine art photography book, *Doors of Weston*, in December 2008. *Doors of Weston* was published in partnership with the Weston Historical Society (WHS). The book, which is available at [www.DoorsOfWeston.com](http://www.DoorsOfWeston.com), has raised over \$20,000.00 for the WHS. All proceeds from the sale of this collectible book go to the Weston Historical Society's Archive Building project.

Julie's photographs of Stockholm, Sweden were featured in the book *The Tattooed Girl: The Enigma of Stieg Larsson and the Secrets Behind the Most Compelling Thrillers of Our Time*. In 2011, this book was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America "Edgar" award in the critical/biographical category. Julie has recently been named a "Gallery Master" at the Darkroom Gallery in Essex Junction, VT where she has been juried into six shows over the last three years and won several awards. A past winner of the Best of Show award at the Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art Show, Julie also served as a curator, exhibitor, and/or chair of this annual philanthropic event for ten years.

Julie O'Connor's work has been exhibited and is now in the permanent collection of The Chicago Art Institute, as well as a variety of private collections. Her 1980's exhibition, "Far From Home," at Manhattan's pioneering Chinatown gallery, the Basement Workshop, detailed the drama of the Asian refugee resettlement experience in the U.S.

Her photojournalism has appeared in *Time*, *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Travel & Leisure*, *People*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, UNICEF calendars, and many other distinguished publications. Julie has curated a number of corporate art collections and local shows of art and photography in Connecticut.

She studied photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with master photographer Kenneth Josephson, and at the New School for Social Research in New York with the legendary Lisette Model.

## **Recent activities and awards include:**

“87th Annual Exhibition” Julie’s Photograph *A Moment with the Big Wheel, Paris* was juried into this yearly Connecticut Women Artists exhibition, at the Arts Center East in Vernon, CT. Sept. 1st - 29th, 2017.

“40th Annual Carriage Barn Member’s Show”: *Golden Mother of Pearl* was on display at this show at the Carriage Barn Arts Center in New Canaan, CT. Sept. 10th - Oct. 7th, 2017.

“156th Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Fair”: Four of Julie’s photographs were on display at this annual event in West Tisbury, Martha’s Vineyard, MA. Aug. 17th - 20th, 2017.

“5th Annual Juried Exhibition”: Julie’s photograph *Patina of Use* was accepted into this show in Philadelphia, PA. Jun 21st - July 29th, 2017.

“106th Annual Exhibition”: Julie’s photograph *A Moment with the Big Wheel, Paris*, was juried into the Connecticut Academy of Fine Art’s 2017 show at the Mystic Museum, in Mystic, CT. June 16th - July 29th, 2017.

“Spring Into Summer”: *Bicyclette, Paris, Feather & Rock*, and *Menemsha Bluffs, Martha’s Vineyard* were all on display at the Art and Frame Gallery in Danbury, CT. June 3rd - July 22nd, 2017.

“Arts Bloom in Weston”: Julie’s photograph *Iris Orchid* was on display at this event in Weston, CT. June 10th, 2017.

“Vision”: Three of Julie’s works, *Golden Mother of Pearl, Old Master New Vision*, and *El Capitolio, Havana* were on display at 3 Square Art, in Fort Collins, CO. May 1st - May 26th, 2017.

“Spectrum: Grayscale”: *Courtyard Boijman’s* was on display at the Carriage Barn Arts Center in New Canaan, CT. April 22nd - May 21st, 2017.

“Pop Up Show”: Julie’s photograph, *Shang Palace, Hong Kong* was on display at the Westport Arts Center in Westport, CT. April 6th - 8th, 2017.

“Shutter”: Three photographs, *Whimsical Östermalm, Stockholm, Sweden, 4711 Eau de Cologne c. 1792*, and *Le Chaleur et le Froid, Paris, France* were on display at the Art & Frame Gallery. Danbury, CT, March 4th - April 8th, 2017.

“Focus ’17”: The photographs, *Villa D’Este, Lake Como, Italy* and *Palacio De Valle, Cuba* were on view at this show in Wilton, CT. Mar. 4th - 30th, 2017.

“IMAGES 2017”: Two photographs were juried into this 9th annual photography exhibition by a panel including Helen Klisser During, Dr. Philip I. Eliasoph,

Francine Kass and Joe Standart. Both *Golden Mother of Pearl* and *Old Master, New Vision* were chosen out of over 700 entries submitted. Fairfield, CT, March 9th - April 30th, 2017.

“CameraWorks”: Three of Julie’s photographs were juried into this exhibition. *Bellmansgatan 1, Stockholm, People’s History Awaits Fate*, and *Three Icons of the 20th Century* were all selected by juror Rebecca Robertson, photo editor for Photo District News. Ridgefield, CT, Feb. 25th - Mar. 26th, 2017.

“Hot & Cold Extremes”: Julie’s work *Le Chaleur et le Froid, Paris, France* was selected for this themed member show at the Ridgefield Guild of Artists. Ridgefield, CT, Jan. 21st - Feb. 12th, 2017.

“Doors of Weston Exhibit”: Julie had a featured solo exhibition in the South House Gallery, at the Weston Senior Activities Center. Over 50 of the photographs from her book *Doors of Weston* were on display. Weston, CT, Sept. 12th - Oct. 29th, 2016.

“Art Walk Ridgefield 2016”: Elizabella’s Bake Shop will host Julie’s photographs for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual event where downtown merchants transform their windows and walls into a strolling art gallery in over 50 locations featuring original, local artwork. It is presented by the Ridgefield Guild of Artists & the Ridgefield Arts Council, non-profit organizations working towards promoting the arts in Ridgefield & surrounding communities. Ridgefield CT, Aug. 19 – Sept. 11, 2016

Concurrent with “*Megalithic Monument, France*” & “*People’s History Awaits Fate, Chicago*” being juried into the ARTifact exhibition Julie was named a “Gallery Master” at the Darkroom Gallery where she has been juried into six shows over the last three years and won several awards. Juror: Davy Rothbart Essex Junction VT, July 21 - August 5, 2016.

“The Arts Bloom in Weston”: A third annual community happening and exhibit included Julie’s photograph *White Peony* as part of the Live Auction. The arts fundraiser recognizes area artists and raises funds for nonprofit organizations. Emmanuel Church, Weston CT, May 21, 2016.

“Art About Town”: The photographs *Bicyclette* & *Fragrant Pink Couch* were chosen by Cotélac, a French fashion boutique, for display in this juried exhibition and downtown-wide Art Celebration. Westport CT, May 19 - June 16, 2016.

“Images 2016” Fairfield Museum: This Juried Art Show included Julie’s *Hmong Mother & Children* photograph. Fairfield CT, May 15 - June 27, 2016.

“In Bloom” Linus Galleries: Julie’s Photograph *White Peony* was selected for this online exhibition. Pasadena CA, April 2016.

“Focus ‘16” Wilton Arts Council: Two of Julie’s photographs were on display, *Il Duomo, Firenze, at the Heart of the Renaissance* and “*Whimsical Östermalm*”, *View from Djurgården Island*. Wilton CT, March 5 - April 1, 2016.

“Culture” Darkroom Gallery: Two of Julie's photographs, *Calder's Child*, *Rijksmuseum*, and *Tibetan Man in a Coracle*, were juried into this exhibition by renowned photojournalist Peter Turnley. Essex Junction VT, March 3-27, 2016.

“36<sup>th</sup> Annual Photography Show” Carriage Barn Arts Center: Juried Art Show featuring “*Whimsical Östermalm*”, *View from Djurgården Island*. Jan Nagle of the Center for Photography Woodstock curated the show. New Canaan CT, January 15 - February 21, 2016.

“H2O” Darkroom Gallery: Julie’s photograph *Floating, Blue Bahama Lagoon with Dolphins Nearby* was selected. Juror: Gary Braasch. Essex Junction VT, December 10, 2015 - January 3, 2016.

“Oddity” Darkroom Gallery: Won “People’s Choice” for *Fragrant Pink Couch, China 2011*. Juror: Oliver Wasow. Essex Junction VT, November 12 - December 6, 2015.

“38<sup>th</sup> Annual Members’ Show” Carriage Barn Arts Center: Juried Art Show *The Mystery of Tea* was chosen. New Canaan CT, September 19 - October 24, 2015.

“Water Works” Maryland Federation of Art: Juried Art Show included *Balcón de Europa* at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. Juror: Kevin Adkins, Washington Post Creative Director. Annapolis MD, September 16 - November 1, 2015.

“154<sup>th</sup> Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Fair”: Won Two Award Ribbons: Second place for the *Abstract* category, and Third place for the *Place* category. West Tisbury MA, August 2015.

“Landmark Homes of Weston” Exhibition, Weston Historical Society Museum: Three dozen photographs from her book *Doors of Weston* were exhibited in Weston CT, April 26 - July 16, 2015.

Weston Historical Society Annual Meeting: Featured Speaker on the *Doors of Weston* book & Slide Presentation, Weston Library, Weston CT, March 29, 2015.

“Chronograph” Darkroom Gallery: Honorable Mention as well as Voted The “People’s Choice” Award, (a first in the gallery history) *Grandmother Granddaughter* was selected by Juror Johan Hallberg-Campbell. Essex Junction VT, January 29 - February 22, 2015.

“Far Away Places” Darkroom Gallery: *Duomo, Florence* was selected by Juror David H. Wells. Essex Junction VT, November 6 - 30, 2014.

“153<sup>rd</sup> Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Fair”: Won Three Award Ribbons: Barbara Cotterrill Award, Given for Best Photo representing MVAS Fair or Vineyard Subject, First Place, Professional Photography, Abstract category; and Third Place, Professional Photography, People category. West Tisbury MA, August 2014.

“2014 Juried Member Show” Ridgefield Guild of Artists: *El Capitolio, Havana* was selected by Juror Laura Einstein. Ridgefield CT, May 17 - June 15, 2014.

“Images 2014” Fairfield Museum: This Juried Art Show included Julie’s photograph *Bellmangatan 1*, featured in *The Tattooed Girl* book. Chosen as one of 50 photographs from over 900 entries. Fairfield CT, May 10 - June 22, 2014.

“14<sup>th</sup> Annual National American Landscape Exhibition” Maryland Federation of Art: Juried Art Show featuring three of Julie’s photographs from Cuba, *El Capitolio, Havana, Todos Revolution, and Trinidad, Cuba*. Annapolis MD, September, 2013.

*Secrets of Inferno: In the Footsteps of Dante and Dan Brown*, edited by Dan Burstein and Arne de Keijzer. Photography and cover image by Julie O’Connor. September, 2013.

“Focus ‘13” Wilton Arts Council: Art Show, featuring Julie’s photographs from China, *Shang Palace Lantern* and *Mystery of Tea*. Wilton CT, April, 2013.

“CameraWorks” Ridgefield Guild of Artists: Art Show, featuring Julie’s photograph, *Shang Palace Lantern*. Ridgefield CT, March, 2013.

“Expressions” Rowayton Arts Center: Julie’s photograph *Havana Solo, Cuba* was juried in. Rowayton CT, February 2013.

“Resolution” Ridgefield Guild of Artists: Art Show and ‘Walk-and-Talk’, featuring three of Julie’s photographs: *The Gesture, Blue Python Bag on Ice, and Evolving Wood*. Ridgefield CT, January - February, 2013.

“10<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art show”: Julie’s photographs of China were featured. St. Vincent’s Westport Campus, Westport CT, May 2012.

*The Tattooed Girl* Book Talk: Julie’s photographs were on display during this discussion. Pequot Yacht Club, Southport CT, January 22, 2012.

2012 Edgar® Awards Nominee Best Critical/Biographical: *The Tattooed Girl: The Enigma of Stieg Larsson and the Secrets Behind the Most Compelling Thrillers of our Time* by Dan Burstein, Arne de Keijzer & John-Henri Holmberg (St. Martin's Griffin) January 19, 2012

“14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pequot Library Art Show.” Southport CT, October 2011.

Julie’s photographs were featured and she was the Photo Editor of the book *THE TATTOOED GIRL: The Enigma of Stieg Larsson and the Secrets Behind the Most Compelling Thrillers of Our Time* by Daniel Burstein, Arne de Keijzer and John-Henri Holmberg. Research and interviews led to her compilation *Stieg Larsson: Timeline of a Life*, May 2011.

*The Moral Geography of Stieg Larsson*, article featured in Weston Magazine as well as 13 other magazines in the Weston Magazine Group portfolio, with over 289,000 readers. Photos by Julie O’Connor, June 2011.

Curated the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art show St. Vincent’s Westport Campus. Westport CT, May 2011.

“unchARTed” Saint Philip Artists’ Guild: The image *View From the Galley* and *Five Windows* both were featured at this nautical-themed show. South Norwalk CT, September 25 - November 7, 2010.

“Photo Summer Sampler” Fairfield Arts Council: Featuring *Mashed Potato Pizza*. Fairfield CT, July 30 - August 20, 2010.

“CameraWorks” Ridgefield Guild of Artists: *Hmong Mother and Child* and *Tibetan Man in Coracle* were shown in this exhibition juried by Harvey Stein. Ridgefield CT, June 6 - 27, 2010.

“Art By Local”, featuring *Cannondale*, at this community art festival in downtown Westport, CT. Rockwell Gallery, Westport CT. May 23, 2010.

“8<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art show”: Julie was one of the artists selected at St. Vincent’s Westport Campus. Westport CT, May 2010.

“Focus ’10”: *Eiffel* and *Monks’ Robes* were both displayed in this show at the Wilton Library, Wilton CT, April 5 - 30, 2010.

Meadow Ridge Book Talk: *Doors of Weston*, explaining the process of making the book-from conception to reality. Meadow Ridge, Redding CT, March 23, 2010.

*Secrets of the Lost Symbol, A Magical, Mystical Tour of Washington D.C.*, article featured in Weston Magazine and the 13 other Weston Magazine Group publications with over 298,000 readers, photographs by Julie, Winter 2010.

“heART for Haiti”: Donated *Old Monk, Drepung Monastery*, for art sale at Rockwell Gallery. All proceeds go to Save the Children, to benefit children affected by the Haiti earthquake. Westport CT, January 30 - February 6, 2010.

*Secrets of the Lost Symbol*: Julie's photographs of Washington D.C. were featured in the book *Secrets of the Lost Symbol*, by Dan Burstein and Arne de Keijzer published in December 2009.

"9<sup>th</sup> Annual National American Landscape Exhibition" Maryland Federation of Art: *Torii Gate, Weston CT*, an image from the *Doors of Weston* book was selected. Juried by Claudia Rousseau, art critic and art history professor. Circle Gallery, Annapolis MD, September 17 - October 18, 2009.

"148<sup>th</sup> Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair": The image *Five Philosophers* received a Third Place Ribbon award. West Tisbury MA, August 2009.

*Doors of Weston: 300 Years of Passageways in a Connecticut Town* was a Nominee for the Eighth Annual Connecticut Book Awards. *Doors of Weston* will be added to the Connecticut Authors Collection as a "truly unique project." *Doors of Weston* was displayed at the Awards Ceremony in the Hartford Public Library, September 20, 2009.

"Summer Sampler of Small Works" Fairfield Arts Council Artist Members Exhibit: *Bicyclette* and *Norbulinka Red Door Knocker* were on exhibition in the gallery. Fairfield CT, July 24 - September 18, 2009.

"Alpan International 2009": Photographs *Hmong Mother and Children*, *Monk's Robes*, and *Tibetan Man in Coracle* were selected by Juror Rhonda Cooper, the director/curator of the University Art Gallery in the Staller Center, at Stony Brook University. Only 9 out of 300 artists were chosen by the juror. Exhibition at the Alpan Gallery. Huntington, Long Island, NY, Aug. 29 - Sept. 26, 2009.

"CT Women Artists 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Juried Exhibition": *Eiffel* was chosen for display in the Jorgensen Gallery, University of Connecticut, by Claudia Seymour, President of the Salmagundi Club. Storrs CT, June 20 - July 25, 2009.

PlumTV Photography Contest: *Menemsha Sunset* won the second place award in the "Water" photograph contest run by Martha's Vineyard's Emmy Award winning Cable Channel, PlumTV.com. Martha's Vineyard, MA, June, 2009.

"7<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art Show": Featuring the *Doors of Weston* book and photographs, Julie also helped to organize the event. Westport CT, May 9- 10, 2009

PlumTV Photography Contest: The image *Five Windows*, was featured as the anchor photograph for the inaugural "Color" contest home page, as well as one of 32 photographs chosen for inclusion from 200+ entries. May, 2009.

“IMAGES” Fairfield Museum: *Tibetan Man in Coracle* was featured in the first of this annual exhibition. Juried by Stephen Wilkes, Eric Meola, Joanna McCarthy, and Larry Silver. From more than 1,200 entries, 50 were selected. Fairfield CT, April 4, 2009.

“60<sup>th</sup> Annual Art of the Northeast” Silvermine Guild: Selected as a semi-finalist for *The Art of the Camera*. Juried by Douglas Dreishpoon, Ph.D, chief curator, Albright-Knox Gallery, NY. There were 118 semi-finalists out of over 1,000 entries. New Canaan CT, April, 2009.

Women’s Club of Weston: Luncheon Guest Speaker on *Doors of Weston*. Southport CT, April 7, 2009.

“Focus ’09”: The Eleventh Annual Photography Show. Wilton CT, April 3, 2009.

*Third Eye: Doors of Weston* article featured in Weston Magazine. April 2009.

Cover Photography for *Inside Angels and Demons*, book by Dan Burstein and Arne de Keijzer. Vanguard Press, 2009.

“Visual Poetry in Photography”: Selected for inclusion in show juried and curated by Dennis Bradbury, Director of Haviland Street Gallery, Norwalk CT. Weston Public Library, Weston CT, March 28, 2009.

“Weston Talks” Event Sponsored by the Weston Education Foundation: discussion about the creation and publication of the *Doors of Weston* fine art photography book. Weston CT, January 10, 2009.

*Doors of Weston* Exhibition, Book Publication and Signing, sponsored by the Weston Historical Society, held at the Weston Public Library, December 7, 2008. Art Book Publication: *The Doors of Weston*. Weston CT, December 2008.

“2008 Norfield Art Show”: Featured the *Doors of Weston* series of photographs. Norfield Church. Weston CT, June 2008.

“2008 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art Show”: Co-curator as well as exhibitor. St. Vincent’s Westport Campus. Westport CT, May 9, 2008.

“2007 Pequot Library Art Show”: Exhibited *Lachat Barn* and *Cobbs Mill Inn Door*. Pequot Library, Southport CT, 2007.

“SPECTRA ’07”: *Monk's Robes, Tibet*, was selected for exhibition in the prestigious SPECTRA '07, the National Photography Triennial, Peter MacGill, juror, at Silvermine Guild Arts Center. New Canaan, CT, 2007. Julie also gave a gallery talk about her work in connection with SPECTRA '07, Sept. 14, 2007.



“Signed, Sealed & Delivered”: Invited to contribute three *Doors of Tibet* artworks to this 5<sup>th</sup> annual show. Silvermine Guild of Artists. New Canaan CT, Oct. 2007.

“30<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition” Ridgefield Guild of Artists: *Eiffel*, a photo-montage, was selected for inclusion. Ridgefield CT, September 2007.

“58<sup>th</sup> Annual Art of the Northeast” Silvermine Guild: *Eiffel*, a photo-montage was featured in this prestigious juried show. New Canaan CT, 2007.

Executive Producer of the short documentary, *18 in 08*, a non-partisan film encouraging 18 to 24 year olds to vote in the 2008 election, première 2007.

“Focus ’07”: Julie received a Third Place Award for *Cambodian Ballerina*, as well as an Honorable Mention Award for *Old Monk, Drepung Monastery*. Wilton Library, Wilton CT, 2007.

Selected as one of the exhibitors in a unique art competition sponsored by the Fairfield Arts Council in which artist's images were turned into 5-foot banners displayed from the lampposts on the streets of Fairfield CT, 2007.

“5<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art Show”: Curator and exhibitor. St. Vincent's Westport Campus, Westport CT, 2007.

“2006 Norfield Art Show”: Julie exhibited her images from *Doors of Tibet*. Norfield Church, Weston CT, June 2006.

“4<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art Show”: Julie won the “Best of Show” award (cash prize) for *Tibetan Man in Coracle*. St. Vincent's Westport Campus, Westport CT, 2006.

“The Art, The Books, The Birds”: As a Commissioner on the Weston Commission for the Arts, Julie curated a retrospective of 50 years of hand-made books, paintings, photography and graphic design by Gerda Da Rif. Weston Library, Weston CT, October 30th, 2005.

Under the auspices of Weston Open Learning, Julie created and led a series of classes and workshops entitled *Conversations with the Women Artists of Weston*, introducing the community to the many talented women artists working locally and promoting dialogue among the artists themselves.

“Images of Lhasa” Hudson United Bank: A series of Julie's fine art images of Tibet were displayed in a one-woman show. Weston CT, 2005.

Curated The Meta Group Corporate Art Collection. Stamford CT.

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Women's Skillet Toss contest: Won Third Place twice in August 2004 & 2007. Won First Place in 2017. Consistently placed within the top 13, in her Lot, every year since 2000.

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Julie's photography can be seen on the websites:

[JulieOConnor.com](http://JulieOConnor.com)

[DoorsofWeston.com](http://DoorsofWeston.com)

<https://westportartscenter.org/gallery/artist-collective/>

[SecretsofInferno.WordPress.com](http://SecretsofInferno.WordPress.com);

[SecretsofTheLostSymbol.com](http://SecretsofTheLostSymbol.com);

[SecretsoftheCode.com](http://SecretsoftheCode.com);

[InsideAngelsandDemons.com](http://InsideAngelsandDemons.com); and

[secretsof24.com](http://secretsof24.com)