

# PROFILE

## Anita Winstanley-Roark

In the age of the digital image, Anita Winstanley-Roark's limited-edition Ilfochrome photographs are a dying art. Primarily landscapes, often scenes of the marshes, ponds, and coves of Cape Cod, Winstanley-Roark's images capture the light that has drawn so many artists to the Cape for a century, and express a personal reverence for nature that she hopes will resonate with the viewer.

"I want people to stop and capture that moment—I want them to wonder at the awe of mother nature when they see my work," Winstanley-Roark explains. "I think that to embrace it and to understand it is something we shouldn't take for granted. We tend to rush through life without stopping to notice things."

Always artistically inclined, Winstanley-Roark studied art history and photography at the University of Arizona and the University of South Florida. She continued her art studies at the University of New Mexico, training early in her career

under the tutelage of a number of noted photographers, including Aaron Siskin and Todd Walker.

"I like the instant gratification. It's a medium I've always been interested in," says Winstanley-Roark, who derived early artistic influence from her mother, an interior designer and art lover, and her father, an amateur photographer whose darkroom was her first exposure to the magical process of developing film. "I was one of those kids who didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up, eventually I got into photography, and that rekindled everything. I was in college when I took it up seriously."

Her husband, painter Robert Roark, has been a major influence on her work over the years, introducing her to working in color photography rather than exclusively in black and white, as she had been previously.

The two opened the Winstanley-Roark Fine Arts gallery in Brewster nearly 10 years ago, moving to Dennis four years ago.



*Quiet Reflections—courtesy Anita Winstanley-Roark*



*Sun Glow—courtesy Anita Winstanley-Roark*

The gallery today represents the work of more than 20 photographers, painters, and sculptors. Previously, they ran a framing shop from their home and showed their work in Provincetown. The positive-to-positive Ilfochrome printing process, though expensive, was one she gravitated towards for its brilliance of color.

"I think of my work as trying to paint with light," she says. "I really like early morning and late afternoon light—those rich colors are what I like to go for. That's why I like Ilfochrome, because it gives you that great color without having to do a whole lot of manipulation of the image."

Though she shoots her signature land- and waterscapes more frequently than she photographs people, Winstanley-Roark's figurative work, primarily nude female models photographed in nature, is an enjoyable challenge, she explains. Though the two types of work are very different, she seeks to convey a passion for the beauty of nature with both styles.

"I love doing figurative work, but my whole reason for being is to work outside. That's why I like to photograph women, because I see women more as a part of, or extension of,

our environment. I like to photograph women in nature—they tend to be almost repetitive forms, and I want people to see that connection we have to our environment. But I don't do as much of the figurative work, which is a very planned process for me. Sometimes it's serendipitous. Usually I have sketches, and I go out with an idea."

Though she no longer does all of her own printing, Winstanley-Roark produces all of her images in limited editions of 10. She is incorporating giclées and digital imagery into her work, but keeping her print editions small is an integral part of her approach to her art, she explains.

"One of the things I love about the Cape is the different topography, and the light," she says. "It's always inspiring. Every day I look out my kitchen window and see beautiful trees, and see them in a different way. Every day is a new opportunity."

—Elizabeth Winston

Anita Winstanley-Roark's work can be seen at Winstanley-Roark Fine Arts, 601 Main Street (Route 6A), Dennis, 508-385-4713, [www.masterfulart.com](http://www.masterfulart.com).