

My earliest art memory was a drawing I made in first grade. The assignment was to draw a picture of a clown for a school event. My teacher explained that the drawing would be displayed and there was a prize for the winner.

For me, the chance to visually express my ideas was far more valuable than the prize. I got to work, selecting colors from a box of crayons, drawing lines and adding details to a plain white sheet of paper. To my surprise, my teacher held up my drawing, announcing that I won the contest.

I don't recall the prize but still remember the colorful polka dots that decorated the clown's costume and how happy I was to be given the opportunity and materials to create art.

Art, with its history, materials and processes, has always been fascinating to me.

After graduating from Emmanuel College with a certification in art education, I taught art in Brockton Public Schools.

In 1987, I opened the Winthrop Children's Corner Preschool.

As an early education teacher, it is an honor to offer young children the opportunity and materials to explore their creativity.

~ Diane Forlani Barsotti