RICK SHARP BIO

Rick has been part of the photographic arts since high school in the 60s. He worked at a local camera local store as a teenager, had his own darkroom, and was on the high school yearbook and newspaper. His first camera was Minolta SRT 101.

That continued through to Ithaca College where he was in charge of all the newspaper darkroom activities. Times were very busy in the early 70s as he had a lot of journalistic experience because of the Viet Nam War unrest and student activism. Rick graduated with a degree in Economics but never lost the feeling for photography.

After graduation Rick moved to CT to work in the school yearbook photography industry, He also became the official photographer for the Hartford Civic Center and the Hartford Whalers NHL hockey team where he was one of the first photographers in the USA to sport a 300mm f2.8 manual focus lens as well as using indoor strobes.

During the 80s Rick was fortunate to have 1 on 1 mentorships with noted photographers at the time such as portrait giant Tibor Horvath of Toronto, the master of commercial lighting Dean Collins, and with the creative genius of Robin Perry who was a neighbor in CT.

Rick then got involved with the PGA and LPGA golf tours in 1986 where he exclusively shot transparency film which was used by the tours and their corporate sponsors. He is still involved with the golf tours to this day having covered more than 600 events over the 30 years.

In the mid 90s the digital age came alive and Rick was a beta tester for the Kodak 620x camera. A Nikon camera on a Kodak digital base. George Fisher was CEO of Kodak at the time and Rick had a relationship with him from prior golf events where he was CEO at Motorola.

By the mid 2000s the digital age was going strong. Rick got involved with a group in Princeton NJ whose product was a program that could take a photograph and turn it into a painting suitable for framing. You got to pick the style you wanted based upon brush strokes of the old masters. The only other similar program in the market at the time was early Corel Draw. This program was called Artography at Home. The output file was immense, 20x30, 300 dpi. All pixels were blended into the brush strokes.

Rick did all the test printing for ATH on his 42in HP UV canvas printer. The program later evolved into a web based download renamed One Minute Masterpiece. You could choose up to 15 different brush styles and have them all rendered at once in under a minute. Then you choose the finished style you liked for output to a printer.

Rick not only test printed the images but also had part of designing the algorithms. The program was way ahead of the curve at the time.

Today Rick still takes images from over his 50 years with photography and turns them into fine digital art using the same program.