



Lily Pond, Harpswell, Me., photograph, 2017



Lily Pond, Harpswell, watercolor, 2017

I am four years old. Crayons in hand, I am sprawled on a huge stack of open coloring books. I still feel that intense joy!

By second grade I announce, “When I grow up, I want to be an artist!” “NO!” my parents shout, remembering the hardships of the Great Depression.

Nevertheless, at Mount Holyoke I take Art History and Sculpture with Leonard De Longa, where I learn to weld and make copper statues. I take Oil Painting and Nude Drawing. All A’s.

So what do I study? Zoology, Chemistry and Physics! Did I do well? It was fascinating, but a struggle.

If you look at my website, I am trying to say:
Never give up on your dreams, however late it may seem.



Editor’s note: Melissa was a photographer for her high school yearbook and for the *Mount Holyoke News*. After college she joined the staff of TIME-LIFE Books and went on to study with prominent photographers. Check out her exceptional watercolors, photographs and impressive CV at <https://www.melissawananamaker.com/>

