

# MARGARET SPARROW

## BIOGRAPHY



© Jeff Peter

Margaret Sparrow was born in 1953 in the Midwestern region of the United States to parents of English, German and Scotch ancestry. She was a solitary child and a mystery to her lovely parents. When still quite young, she discovered in the attic of her home, packed away in dusty cartons, her great-grandparents library. After reading a portion of a short novel by Thackeray, she realized, all in a moment, that nothing was as it had seemed. The world became, almost instantly, an entirely different place, filled with vast and profound possibilities.

At the age of fifteen she made her first oil painting, secretly, in a large closet off her bedroom. She continued painting, encouraged by her teachers and the director of the local art museum, Riley Rhoades, who introduced her to modern painterly realism and the works of Robert Barnes, Leland Bell and Robert Weaver.

She left home at age eighteen to attend the Kansas City Art Institute where she studied for two years under Michael Walling, Richard Pitts and Wilbur Niewald.

She then left the Midwest, having been awarded a full scholarship to a summer workshop in Lake Placid, N.Y. She moved to Manhattan in the fall and was accepted at The New York Studio School located in the old Whitney Museum building on Eighth Street. Classes at that time were being taught, principally, by Mercedes Matter and Peter Agostini. Critiques were given periodically by Phillip Guston and Esteban Vicente, both of whom were impressed and delighted by Ms. Sparrow's early still lives. At the same time she enrolled in classes at The New School for Social Research where she studied Philosophy. Credit transfers from these two schools enabled her to graduate from The Kansas City Art Institute with a BFA in Painting in 1974.

She remained in New York for the next ten years, painting quietly and deliberately, working for a private bookseller, reading, attending performances at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall and finding her friends amongst an older generation of cultured Europeans.

She eventually moved outside of Manhattan to avoid the ever increasing financial demands of the city. A friend offered her the use of his summer home on the island of Vinalhaven in Maine, and with financial assistance from a private collector in New York, she was able to live and paint through the winters for the next ten years. It was in Vinalhaven that she met Robert Indiana and formed a lasting friendship based largely on their intellectual interests and their mutual isolation. At the same time she remained closely attached to New York City.

In 1990 she met her future husband, Edward G. Sparrow, a Tutor at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. They were married in 1995 in New York. Ms. Sparrow now resides in northern Vermont.

Concerned with what is true, she has endeavored throughout the years to create works of lasting value and genuine authenticity. The results are a relatively small number of fine easel paintings and works on paper, created with care and dedication. Hers has been, and continues to be, a very serious and very private quest, pursued with a compelling sense of wonder at the simple loveliness, mystery, and grandeur of the world which surrounds us all.

Rarely shown, the paintings are represented in private collections and one public museum.

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



© Don Whipple



© Don Whipple