

# Julie O'Connor

1 Langner Lane, Weston, CT 06883 tel (203) 222-8888 fax 203.226.0583

## Artist Bio

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Julie O'Connor is a fine art photographer and photojournalist who has traveled the world in search of powerful and poetic images for more than 25 years. After her experiences in Tibet, she created the "Doors of Tibet" art poster, as well as a series of fine art images, note cards and post cards of Tibet, which are now on sale in museum stores and Asian arts stores across America and through her website: [www.JulieOConnor.com](http://www.JulieOConnor.com)

Inspired and informed by her work on the Doors of Tibet, Julie's most recent project is *Doors of Weston*, a book based on her photographs of doors in her hometown of Weston, CT. During the summer of 2006, the local newspaper, the Weston Forum, published a 9-part series on the doors of Weston, utilizing Julie's photographs. The newspaper went on to win a New England Press Association (NEPA) award for community involvement for this innovative series. Julie continued to photograph throughout 2007 and 2008, finally culminating in the publication of her fine art photography book, *Doors of Weston*, in December 2008. *Doors of Weston* was published in partnership with the Weston Historical Society (WHS). The book, which is available at [www.DoorsOfWeston.com](http://www.DoorsOfWeston.com), has already raised \$15,000.00 for the WHS. All proceeds from the sale of this collectable book go to the Weston Historical Society's Archive Building project.

Julie O'Connor's work has been exhibited and is now in the permanent collection of The Chicago Art Institute, as well as a variety of private collections. Her 1980s exhibition, "Far From Home," at Manhattan's pioneering Chinatown gallery, the Basement Workshop, detailed the drama of the Asian refugee resettlement experience in the U.S.

Her photojournalism has appeared in Time, The New York Times, New York Magazine, Travel & Leisure, People, The Christian Science Monitor, UNICEF calendars, and many other distinguished publications. Julie has curated a number of corporate art collections and local shows of art and photography in Connecticut. She studied photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with master photographer Kenneth Josephson, and at the New School for Social Research in New York with the legendary Lisette Model.

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

## **Recent activities and awards include:**

Maryland Federation of Art, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National American Landscape Exhibition, juried in the photograph *Torii Gate, Weston CT.*, which is an image from *Doors of Weston*. The competition was juried by Claudia Rousseau, a professional art critic and art history professor. The Art Opening and Reception will be in the Circle Gallery, Annapolis MD on September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 pm. Show runs September 17 - October 18, 2009.

148<sup>th</sup> Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair: The image *Five Philosophers* received a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon award, August 2009.

*Doors of Weston: 300 Years of Passageways in a Connecticut Town* was a Nominee for the Eighth Annual Connecticut Book Awards. *Doors of Weston* will be added to the Connecticut Authors Collection as a "truly unique project." *Doors of Weston* was displayed at the Awards Ceremony, September 20, 2009 in the Hartford Public Library.

Fairfield Arts Council Artist Members Exhibit: Summer Sampler of Small Works, *Bicyclette* and *Norbulinka Red Door Knocker* were on exhibition in the gallery, Fairfield CT, July 24 - September 18, 2009.

Alpan International 2009: Photographs *Hmong Mother and Children*, *Monk's Robes*, and *Tibetan Man in Coracle* were selected by Juror Rhonda Cooper, the director/curator of the University Art Gallery in the Staller Center, at Stony Brook University. Only 9 out of 300 artists were chosen by the juror. Exhibition at the Alpan Gallery, Huntington, Long Island, NY. Aug. 29 - Sept. 26, 2009.

CT Women Artists 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Juried Exhibition: *Eiffel* was chosen for display in the Jorgensen Gallery, University of Connecticut, by Claudia Seymour, President of the Salmagundi Club. June 20 - July 25, 2009.

PlumTV Photography Contest: The image *Menemsha Sunset* received the second place award in the "Water" photograph contest run by Martha's Vineyard's Cable Channel, PlumTV.com, June, 2009.

Organizer and exhibitor in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art show in Westport, CT, May 9 - 10 2009, featuring the *Doors of Weston* book and photographs.

PlumTV Photography Contest: The image *Five Windows*, was featured as the anchor photograph for the inaugural "Color" contest home page, as well as one of 32 photographs chosen for inclusion from 200+ entries. May, 2009.

*Tibetan Man in Coracle* in the Fairfield Museum, IMAGES exhibition. Juried by Stephen Wilkes, Eric Meola, Joanna McCarthy, and Larry Silver,

Fairfield CT 4/24/09. From more than 1,200 entries 50 were selected.

Selected as a semi-finalist for *The Art of the Camera* in the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Art of the Northeast, Silvermine, New Canaan CT. Juried by Douglas Dreishpoon, Ph.D, chief curator, Albright-Knox Gallery, NY. There were 118 semi-finalists out of over 1,000 entries. April, 2009.

Women's Club of Weston: Luncheon Guest Speaker on *Doors of Weston*, Southport, CT 4/7/09.

Focus '09: Participant in Eleventh Annual Photography Show, Wilton CT 4/3/09.

*Third Eye: Doors of Weston* article featured in Weston Magazine April, 2009.

Cover Photography for *Inside Angels and Demons*, book by Dan Burstein and Arne de Keijzer. Vanguard Press, 2009.

Visual Poetry in Photography: Selected for inclusion in show juried and curated by Dennis Bradbury, Director of Haviland Street Gallery, Norwalk CT. Weston Public Library, Weston CT 3/28/09.

"Weston Talks" Event: discussion about the creation and publication of the *Doors of Weston* fine art photography book, sponsored by the Weston Education Foundation, Weston Public Library, Weston CT on 1/10/09.

*Doors of Weston* Exhibition, Book Publication and Signing, sponsored by the Weston Historical Society, held at the Weston Public Library, 12/7/08.

Art Book Publication: *The Doors of Weston* in December 2008.

Invited to exhibit in the 2008 Norfield Art Show, June 2008.

Co-Curator and exhibitor in the 2008 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art show in Westport, CT, May 9, 2008.

Exhibited *Lachat Barn* and *Cobbs Mill Inn Door*, 2007 Pequot Library Art Show in Southport, CT.

*Monk's Robes, Tibet*, was selected for exhibition in the prestigious SPECTRA '07, the National Photography Triennial, Peter MacGill, juror, at Silvermine Guild Arts Center, in New Canaan, CT in 2007. Julie also gave a gallery talk about her work in connection with the SPECTRA show, 10/14/2007.

Invited to contribute to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Signed, Sealed & Delivered" Show: three *Doors of Tibet* artworks. Silvermine Guild of Artists, October 2007.

*Eiffel*, a photo-montage, was selected for inclusion in the Ridgefield Guild of Artists 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition, Ridgefield, CT in September 2007, as well as the prestigious juried 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Art of the Northeast show at Silvermine Guild in New Canaan, CT in 2007.

Executive Producer of the Short-Documentary, *18 in 08*, a non-partisan film encouraging 18 to 24 year olds to vote in the 2008 election, première 2007.

Invited to exhibit in the 2007 Norfield Art Show, featuring the *Doors of Weston* series of photographs.

Third Place Award for *Cambodian Ballerina*, as well as an Honorable Mention Award for *Old Monk, Drepung Monastery*, in the Focus '07 Photo Exhibit at the Wilton Library in Wilton, CT.

Selected as one of the exhibitors in a unique art competition sponsored by the Fairfield Arts Council in which artist's images were turned into 5-foot banners displayed from the lampposts on the streets of Fairfield, CT, 2007.

2007 Curator and exhibited in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art show in Westport, CT.

In 2006, Julie won the "Best of Show" award (cash prize) at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Hall-Brooke Mother's Day Art Show in Westport, CT for photo *Tibetan Man in Coracle*.

In 2006, invited to exhibit images from her *Doors of Tibet* series in the Norfield Fair Art Show in Weston, CT.

As a Commissioner on the Weston Commission for the Arts, Julie curated a retrospective of 50 years of artwork by Gerda Da Rif in October 2005.

Under the auspices of Weston Open Learning, Julie created and led a series of classes and workshops entitled *Conversations with the Women Artists of Weston*, introducing the community to the many talented women artists working locally and promoting dialogue among the artists themselves.

In 2005, a series of Julie's fine art images of Tibet were displayed in a one-woman show, *Images of Lhasa*, at the Hudson United Bank, Weston CT.

Curated The Meta Group Corporate Art Collection, Stamford, CT.

Won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Women's Skillet Toss contest, August 2007. Consistently placed within the top 12, in her Lot, every year since 2000.

Julie's photography can be seen on the websites [SecretsoftheCode.com](http://SecretsoftheCode.com), [InsideAngelsandDemons.com](http://InsideAngelsandDemons.com), and [Secretsof24.com](http://Secretsof24.com).