

**EUCLID ART ASSOCIATION**  
**January 7, 2019 - Members' Night 'Show and Tell'**  
**Mary Alice Valvoda**

Our last presenter, **Mary Alice Valvoda**, joined Euclid Art in our 2014-2015 season. She is a very accomplished photographer, photo artist, digital artist and photo restorer. Not to be confused with Mary Ann Valvoda, her sister-in-law, who is an award winning watercolor artist. Mary Alice has been into photography since she was 19 years old. She had her own darkroom and even a color darkroom! Her career was in computers. She started working with computers “at the same time Al Gore said he invented the internet”. She worked at Case Western to link four computers around the world and built searches on what people looked up. Her husband would complain....“you think like a damn computer!” Mary Alice continued to build up knowledge as technology moved forward. “I’m equally at home in either the left or right brain....I’m in the middle,” she said. She has a masters degree in information technology and worked at BP for 13 years managing corporate training and management development.



Then came digital! Mary Alice bought herself the best camera at the time, a 4-pixel Minolta camera for \$500. She said, “the only class I ever got a ‘C’ in was art! But now, with digital, I can draw a tree...so much better!” “Digital is Art,” she declared....“no more darkrooms, no more smelly chemicals and you can re-do it.” Her photographic digital works of art continue to win awards in almost every show she enters.



Mary Alice went on to tell us about her current work restoring old prints and giclée printing, describing her ‘now’ digital darkroom. She prints all her own work and researches everything from printers to scanners and papers to inks. Her photo restoration work is most rewarding. She enjoys restoring memories for people. She even combined images from seven old photographs to create a new one.

For those unfamiliar with giclée printing, Mary Alice explained the three characteristics....first, image must be at least 300dpi, second, inks are pigmented, don’t fade and the printers must have 10 to 12 inks, and third, the paper is archival. “It’s a much more expensive process than a typical drugstore print,” she said. She does giclée printing for many artists, including several current and past members....Mary Page Williams and Gerry Shamray. Her company is called MAVZPIX Photo Art Studio. Even though she is very busy, she is offering EAA members a 10% discount on their first order. To paraphrase Mary Alice, “Nothing leaves my house/studio that I wouldn’t hang on my walls”....

