

## Bio for Toby Colton

Color and form have interested me all my life. For years I expressed myself through food with its myriad colors, textures and shapes. In the early 1990's I followed my children into art class where I began to learn such simple things as using water to thin my paint and how to hold a brush. I soon found that, for me, a paintbrush is an extension of who I am. I move into an altered state when I paint with a brush. It is as if it is me touching the canvas and applying paint. My first painting, an acrylic, is still lovingly displayed in my husband's office. I look at it from time to time to see how far I have come. Over time, I have experimented with other media, always returning to my first love, acrylic.

I am drawn to nature through flowers because one of their primary purposes is to bring beauty to the world. Some flowers are cheerful, some are stately, some are shy. Each one has a personality and a soul. Every time I paint a flower, I paint a portrait. Other portraits are of fruit. I also do abstract paintings when I am so moved, some with specific form and others mere expression of color and movement.

I marvel that Monet could complete so many paintings of haystacks. To him, the light was his subject. I enjoy painting a new subject with each new canvas.

I am intimately drawn to the Japanese art form Ikebana. I remain forever grateful to one of the greatest teachers of Ikebana in the western world, Stella Coe, for helping me understand with more than my eyes and then to develop my own sense of balance.

Early in my career, I painted with a group of artists who displayed their work at Hide House Bay View. I am a founding member of Griffin Gallery Fine Art LLC, now proudly entering its fifth year.

In a marked departure from my traditional work, I also do intuitive paintings which can be seen at my web site: [Toby Colton's Orit Chava - Spritual Portraits](#)

<http://www.spiritualportraits.net/Home.htm>