

# PHILIP MORTON GALLERY

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## Meet The Artist: MARTI MARINO

I attended the Corcoran School of Art and Design Open Program from 1981 to 1991 under the mentorship of Berthold Schmutzhart. My undergraduate work was completed at Allegheny College and I received my M. Ed degree at the University of Pittsburgh. I was an elementary school teacher for 37 years, spending the second half of my career as an art specialist in Montgomery County, MD.

I have participated in juried shows in the Washington D.C. area, Annapolis and Salisbury, MD, and Rehoboth Beach, DE. I have received awards from the Corcoran for my work as a student, The Maryland Federation of Art, The Children's Beach House, and The Rehoboth Art League. My work was chosen by the Delaware Folk Art Collection to be part of their collection in Wilmington, DE. Two articles have appeared in local publications - The Cape Gazette in February of 2005 and Delaware Beach Life Magazine in June 2008. Member of Delaware By Hand and The Artists' Exchange.

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Being introduced to sculpture was like coming home to a comfortable place after decades of feeling that something was amiss in my life as an artist. I have tried and fallen in love with most of the mediums available. As a student I worked subtractively: carving wood and stone with compressor driven tools. Carving is still my first love. My penchant for mixing media soon led me to create assemblages of found objects - bones, feathers and old wood to name a few. My exploration and observation of the natural world has provided me with an endless supply of inspiration and ideas.

For this show I returned as I often do to clay as my medium and the sea as my inspiration. Each piece, though abstract in nature, contains forms and textures found in mollusk shells. Some were inspired by a specific shell; but as often happens (if I'm lucky) the piece soon takes on a life of its own and becomes much more than I had imagined. I decided to create my pieces in porcelain clay because in its unglazed form its color and texture are reminiscent of ancient bleached shells. I have found the experience exciting and rewarding.