

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juried Member's Spotlight Exhibit: Sharon M Thomas Bibeault

Since I was a kid, I was always fascinated with kaleidoscopes and mirrored images. I have always found them fascinating how you could take a piece of glass or a mirror to distort in what you actually see in front of you. When I went to art college, I played around with the concept a bit with my drawings. A professor of mine encourage me more with the technique. I used to come up with some interesting results.

After college, I started to devote more time with a passion of mine, quilting. I took printed fabric and played more with making quilt blocks in a kaleidoscope pattern by the way you cut out the repeat of the fabric. I continued with my photography as well. I stumbled upon a Photoshop program that would be able to distort my images into kaleidoscopes and mirrored images. I've played with them on and off over the years.

Early last year, I lost my husband to cancer. One of my saving graces has been me venturing out into nature and taking my photographs. One day, I decided to experiment with my kaleidoscope and mirrored images again. I'm currently stuck on mirroring them. I wanted to find a calming peace for myself when my world was shattered to pieces. At times they remind me of a fairy fantasy world or just a calming peace.

I now go out and take pictures with the thought of what would this image look like if I distort it to a mirrored one. It's a continuous ongoing project of mine. I've been pushing my work to the point of having the viewer not really know what they are looking at. I don't want them to realize they have been mirrored and in the process, create a world that is calming for the viewer to get lost in.