



## *Framer's Bonanza: Black & Whites, Watercolors, & One Special Quilt*



### **Match Made in Heaven**

Jennifer Hines\* of Dover, Mass., marks the passage of time with black and white photographs of her kids at different stages of their young lives.

For the first "series," she had the images matted and framed in a frame shop. Time marched on. Jennifer then had another round of photographs taken and was getting ready to display them. She wanted the frames for this new series to maintain continuity with

the other black and white images. She also didn't want one photograph to stand out more than another, despite their being different sizes.

She looked forward to showcasing this new series of family portraits with the others on the wall of a long hallway. But where would she get the frames?

Jennifer's family photographer, Marjorie Nichols, recommended Kathy Skarvan, a custom framer and owner of Ava Art. Jennifer contacted Kathy and said two things especially appealed to her: Kathy was an artist *first*, so she'd provide a discerning eye, and Kathy would physically bring the frame shop to Jennifer's home--an ideal arrangement for a busy mom with two small kids.

Jennifer adds, "Kathy was open-minded. She worked well within my guidelines, but she had that 'creative thinking' as well."

After looking at Jennifer's black and white photographs, Kathy took one back to her home-based studio and researched frames. She was able to find the matching frame and mat that were used on

the original set of black and white photos. Jennifer was grateful for Kathy's efforts and pleased with the outcome, noting that Kathy's work met her expectations. "They look great," Jennifer says.

### **The Secret behind Quilt-Framing Success**

Jennifer had a quilt her mother had made that featured bright flowers in reds, pinks, and oranges--colors that matched the color scheme of the kids' playroom. The question was how to display the quilt, which was approximately 2' x 3'. That's when Jennifer discovered Kathy Skarvan was just as adept at framing objects as she was at framing photographs.

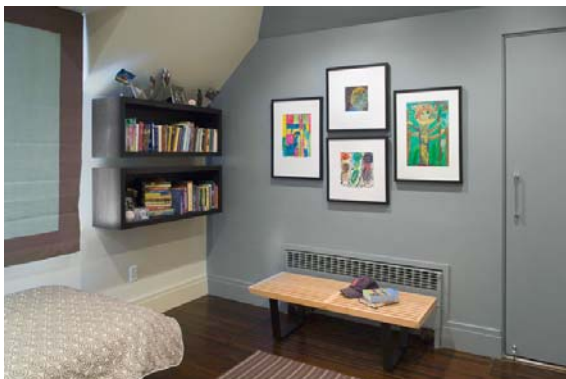
"Kathy had a great idea on how to frame it so that it would look good with modern aesthetics."

Together, Kathy and Jennifer chose a frame. However, a few days later, Kathy found another frame that she believed Jennifer would like better. "We needed something that would be deep enough to put the quilt in," Kathy says. "Having become familiar with Jennifer's tastes and also knowing the room in which the quilt would 'live', I found another frame that I thought Jennifer would like even more."

Turns out, Kathy's instincts were right on target. Jennifer loved Kathy's suggestion, which was an angular frame made of light wood. But challenges remained. Kathy recalls, "We used a shadow box because of the nature of the object, but the downside is the beauty of the piece can be diminished due to glare caused by regular glass. However, this doesn't hold true with Museum Glass®. In fact, when we use this option, the glass is nearly invisible because of its anti-reflective qualities."



Jennifer agrees. "The glass she suggested made it turn out really great. Actually, it came out phenomenal."



### **Colorful Creations & Watercolor Wonders...Proudly on Display**

What better way to make a first grader feel good about his artwork than by framing each piece--and not just with any frame either, but rather one that had been hand-picked by a professional?

That was Jennifer's philosophy when she decided to have her son Brady's artwork framed. The young artist's body of work was impressive and included a self-portrait and his impression of a character

from the children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*. Some pieces were horizontal, others were vertical, and a variety of mediums were used, including watercolors.

Jennifer recalls, "I wondered how we were going to mat them. I also didn't want one piece to stand out more than another. Kathy did a great job of suggesting how to hang each one on the wall and what type of frame to use. They look fabulous."

Four pieces currently hang in Brady's bedroom, while a fifth is prominently displayed in Jennifer's home office. Jennifer says that all of the pieces, especially the one in her office, look like "real" professional pieces of art, and that this is thanks to Kathy's sharp eye and expertise in not only framing, but also her appreciation of art itself. "She knew exactly what area of the artwork to home in on," Jennifer says and notes that the frame Kathy chose elevated each piece to a more mature level.

"She's just a great, easy going person to work with," Jennifer adds. "She's flexible, open minded, but also has a creative side to her, which is a good balance. She definitely added a lot of value to the process. Not to mention that she brings the frame shop to your home--it doesn't get any more convenient than that."



## **Ava Art**

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*\*Some names have been changed for privacy.*

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