

A Framer's Perspective



profile

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INDIAN KING FRAMERY

BY EVAN JOHN

The service of picture framing is a unique blend of human interaction and aesthetics – a give and take process followed by a meticulous manipulation of materials. As the owner of Indian King Framery in Keene, New Hampshire, I think of myself as fresh eyes for my customers. I'm a tie breaker and deal closer when the choice is narrowed. I'm a nit picker, engaged in spirited back room warfare with dust specks and glass bubbles. Fundamentally, though, I'm an artisan who listens, then integrates a pleasing design with conservation-grade products to create a beautiful new perspective on a cherished object.

I'm continually amazed by the singular and distinctive items our customers bring to us. An average week might have us framing fine art by a local artisan, cutting a mat for a child's watercolor, framing a well-earned diploma, creating a shadowbox for a collection of antique buttons, or reframing an N.C. Wyeth painting for the Keene State College Mason Library. We've even provided the entire art program for Cheshire Medical Center.

The opportunities and challenges come daily, usually with the ring of our door chime. Engaging a client, learning why artwork is important to them, and then assessing their openness to design possibilities comes first. From there, it becomes a conversation and, finally, a trust exercise when we're left with their project. The best reward is showing off the finished product to a delighted customer. With this formula, Indian King Framery has brought unique, archival framing to three generations of customers for over 30 years.

INDIAN KING FRAMERY

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Left: Theresia, Evan and Isabel John of Indian King Framery.



CRAFTING A CREATIVE LIFE

BY THERESIA WEBER-JOHN

My creative life began in early childhood, in the very small German village of St. Nikolaus, near the Alsace region of France. I enjoyed a rich festival life which was not just part of my family, but the social life of all villagers. Many festivals required creative handywork; from gathering and collecting wildflowers to making paper lanterns, sewing, weaving baskets or baking. Oral storytelling by parents or grandparents was also part of daily life, and expanded every child's colorful imagination.

It was of great importance to me to pass these traditions on to my children, and to provide them with viewpoints from two different cultures. In order to deepen their understanding, experiences, and polish their language skills, we would travel to Europe every year while they were young. As they grew older, I would encourage traveling to different countries and continents.

As a teenager, I picked up photography and developed my own black and white images – the same passion Evan shared when we met in 1980. My interest in portrait photography grew during my extensive travel to the Middle East and Asia. I used to create a yearly calendar with black and white photos, and create my own greeting cards. Today, I balance my support for Evan and the Framery with my responsibilities as the infant care lead teacher at Sophia's Hearth Family Center in Keene.

For me, beauty, excellent workmanship, creativity and harmony are a part of my daily life. We have built a business rich in the appreciation of all things beautiful and cherished. It is my pleasure to share these with my family, friends, colleagues, customers, and in my work with children.