

Donna Massa-Chappee — *Illustrator of The Voyagers Series*

Donna Massa-Chappee (www.DonnaMassa.com) writes:

I would like to begin by saying that since I was a little girl, I was attracted to things that were different. Like most children, I was drawn to kindness and beauty. I loved to dance, so at age five, I took classes in classical ballet and point at the Boston Ballet. Grace and movement became a form of emotional expression and passion for me, so I danced and performed for ten years. As a young adult, the fine arts were also a passion for me, so I took private art classes. When it came to college, I decided that art was more of a calling than dance, but I never stopped dancing! Growing up with a family of artists, jewelry designers, and fashion designers left quite an impression on me.

In college, I earned a B.A. in Graphic Design and Illustration at Montserrat School of Art in Beverly, MA. After graduating, I joined the family business full time and began working for the House of Bianchi, Inc., a prestigious and well-known wedding gown manufacturer in Boston, MA. It was there that I spent thirty years of my adult life.

I illustrated for the Pacific Coast Magazine of LA, where I became their house model and worked in almost every department within the company. At the age of twenty-seven, I decided to go back to school and earned an associate degree in Fashion Design at the School of Fashion Design in Boston, MA. This is when my first successful career began. I designed for the House of Bianchi for fifteen years and my dresses were featured in “Brides” and “Modern Bride” magazines. It was a wonderful and exciting time in my life!

Closing that chapter of my life, the illustrative side of me as a hand artist became a burning passion. I began this new career searching for something (whether it was hope, peace, love, or meaning), and as I continued on this path, that certain something became increasingly evident — you! You, my fans, are my inspiration and motivation for illustrating. I try to create art that stirs your emotions — hits the happy, shakes the sad, amplifies the awe, and moves the spirit. Like oxygen, I hope my art fills you with the means to make your own dreams come true, because my art is my soul, and without it, I can't breathe.