

# Liz Gold

## Artist's Statement

Photography for me is a profoundly spiritual experience. I once saw a movie in which a Navajo elder describes his feeling for the land. He says that an Arab prince once hired a servant whose sole job was to remind him, every minute, to praise God. The Navajo said simply, "Some places are like that." I try to capture that feeling in my photographs.

I live with my partner, seven cats, and three dogs just a stone's throw from the Santuario, and I am often there, photographing my favorite subject and soaking up the healing. My partner and I care for an apple orchard, another favorite photographic subject. I have been struggling since I was 17 with chronic illness, but I try not to let it get me down. I just feel doubly blessed on the days when I can get up and go outside with a camera.

A lifelong friend bought me my digital SLR camera after I survived breast cancer five years ago. My friend's mother died of breast cancer. She understood that I have to make every day count, and not wait around for a 'someday' that might never come. For me, photography became a form of healing and a way of giving something back to the world. I feel so lucky to be able to experience the daily blessing of that effervescent New Mexico light. I am, and probably always will be, a student of that light.

Viewers are often perplexed at first by my giclée prints on canvas, unsure whether they are photographs or paintings. They are actually prints made with a special printer that sprays inks made from pigments, like artists' paints. I first helped my partner, artist Debbie Denison, to create giclées of her paintings. Many people had told me that my photographs had a painterly quality, so I thought, hey, maybe I should try doing this with my photographs. I have been very pleased with the clarity and vividness of the giclées. But I also enjoy printing some traditional black and whites.



I am extremely grateful to the High Road MarketPlace, a cooperative art gallery in Truchas where my work was first displayed. They gave me the opportunity I needed to show my work to the public. The High Road MarketPlace believed in me and helped me learn how to market and display my work.

Gold and Denison also show their work at a small gallery attached to their home, Acequia Madres Gallery, at 3 Santa Cruz

Dam Rd. in Chimayo next to the fire station on Highway 98, 351-1381, [www.ditchmamas.com](http://www.ditchmamas.com).

