

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY / Ruth T. Segaloff / 2014



Segaloff comes from a family of artist storytellers, and she inherited this legacy. After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, she joined VISTA, where she was stationed one year on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in Idaho. In 1969, she earned a Masters Degree in Social Work from Rutgers University and moved to Boston.

Segaloff grew up in New Orleans in the nineteen fifties, at the violent beginnings of the civil rights movement and at the height of Joseph McCarthy's "Communist witch hunts." Later, while in college, John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bobby Kennedy, all were assassinated. The Vietnam War, begun under JFK, gave rise to the anti-war movement and a violent response. These traumatic events greatly influenced her, and peace and social justice have been common themes of her artwork.

Stories have been central to Ruth's forty year career in social work. She retired in 2008 to become a full time artist. Despite limited formal arts training, she has found considerable success. Since 2006, her artworks have been on exhibit in over sixty art shows throughout Massachusetts, including a number of medical and mental health settings.

Segaloff also serves as a therapeutic arts mentor in programs making use of the healing powers of creativity. These have included Medicine Wheel Productions in South Boston, and Girls, Incorporated of Lynn. In January, 2011, Ruth created "The Therapeutic Arts Journal Writing Program," for incarcerated women At the South Middlesex Correctional Center, in a minimum security/pre-release prison.