

Donna M. GoodHale

What do you want to know about Donna M. GoodHale? Bio's almost feel like obituaries. In just a few short sentences one is supposed to show that they are qualified, accomplished, and interesting. As a Vermont-based environmental photographic artist, specializing in wedding and portrait images, I've spent over 35 years honing my craft. Achieving my certifications from Professional Photographer of America, as well as earning Master of Photography and Photographic Craftsman Degrees, is a testament to my dedication.

My journey began learning the operations of a 35 mm camera at the age of 7 while we visited 48 states then continuing the 2nd grade playground with a Kodak Pocket a-1. That passion brought me to the Rhode Island School of Photography and upon graduation I established my studio, Expressions By Donna over 30 years ago. Along the way, I've had the privilege of serving as President of both the Vermont Professional Photographers (VPP) and New England Professional Photographers (PPANE), and as a serving Council Member to The Professional Photographers of America (PPA), contributing to the growth of our industry.

There are many awards you compete for, but the most treasured are the ones you earn. My VPP President's Award in 1997, 2002 and 2005 and the PPANE President's Award in 2003, and The National Award in recognition of outstanding service to the profession for my dedication to professional photography and giving back are my most treasured. To be recognized at a national level for my excellence in portrait and wedding images was a dream come true and to have my photography be featured in many New England and National publications is always a surreal feeling. For the many awards I received, never would I have thought to be awarded the Kodak Elite Award, to be selected from over 4,000 images of makers I have admired and respected most my life. It will be the one I will never forget!

One of my most rewarding experiences has been serving as 1 of only 100 members as an International Affiliated Jury, connecting with talented artists worldwide and sharing insights, having judged, and taught as far away as Korea These experiences have enriched my perspective and fueled my passion for photography.

As much as I love my profession, it is who I share my life with outside of work that means the most. My life is filled with love and adventure that also includes my husband who happens to be my SuperHero, Brad, our AussieDoodle named Nala and cats Bella and Buffy. Brad and I have opened our hearts and home to an eclectic mix of over 7 international students and we cherish our roles as Godparents to our 2 Godsons. Our non-traditional family daily interacts and seeks our contribution to their lives keeps us very busy. We're avid outdoor enthusiasts, between hiking, biking, canoeing, and exploring. Recently in the spirit of adventure we have decided to dual state live, splitting our time between Richmond, Virginia where Brad works for the Virginia State Police and in Rutland, Vermont where I operate my studio and we own a home. Giving us the opportunity to embrace the beauty of both locales.

So, at the end of the day, I lay my head down on the pillow with purpose. A life full of adventure, with lots of turns and hills, always room at my table for another and a heart full of love to give. I am proud of the life I have built and can't wait to see what I create next.