



Lori Portka is a full-time artist whose mission is to spread happiness. A firm believer in loving kindness, she aims to be as authentically Lori as possible in her art, work and life.

After graduating from college and working as a teacher, Lori received her Masters in Mental Health Counseling. She intended to make a career working in the school system until, at age 30-something, she read *The Artist's Way* and began making art again for the first time since high school.

Creating art helped Lori through a heart-breaking divorce, and it became her way of re-opening her heart to the potential of the future. "Sometimes I rode the waves of pain on a boat of pastels, paints, chalk and inks," she explains. "It was a bumpy ride, but I grew deeper, more spiritual and more compassionate."

Nowadays, Lori is remarried and living happily in upstate New York with her loving husband Jay, their gentle-hearted greyhounds, and a calico cat. When not creating art, Lori can be found reading spiritual books, drinking green juice, traveling, hiking, and snuggling with Jay while they watch movies and eat dark chocolate.

Lori continues to find happiness through art... and every day, strives to spread that happiness to others.