

BIO

Blessed with Bipolar disorder - popularly referred to as manic depression - Louie Rochon pours his passions into photography: bold, vibrant floral images that burst with powerful emotion.

Born in Quebec, Canada, Louie moved to the US when he was four and lived in numerous western states. He spent 15 years as a broker with RE/MAX in Alaska and WA; 10 years in the food industry supervising 11 restaurants; and several years as owner of a small marketing firm in Seattle. In 1988, Louie experienced a serious mid-life meltdown and 'dropped off the grid' during a two-year, 5,200-mile solo walk across America for Pediatric Aids. *"The worst and best years of my life,"* says Louie. *"Definitely the most rewarding."* Shortly after completing the walk in 2000, Louie finally found his version of paradise in Langley on Whidbey Island.

Louie has always been searching for the 'right' artistic passion, including watercolor and life-sized papier mache sculpture – though he was always frustrated he could never find a medium which truly allowed him the depth of full expression. In 2009, Louie rekindled a passion in fine arts macro photography which he describes as *"taking complete possession of me. I am lost in another world for hours in a 'dance with my flowers' that is a blur of color, light and emotion, resulting in images that I gratefully share with others."*

Louie retired in 2014 and is devoting himself full-time to his fine arts photography career, working from his quiet picturesque studio located on 6 acres in Langley. *"I am incredibly blessed to have time, health, opportunity and inspiration to create."*