## **Art Workshop Presenters**

(In their own words)

## Aparajita Sen

I took to drawing and pencil sketching at a very early age. My maternal grandfather, who was a famous Indian artist and a student of the revered Indian poet/artist Ravindranath Tagore, was my inspiration. I continued drawing through my school years. In college I majored in Computer Science and Finance, I found little time to devote to my art.

After graduation from St. Johns University, New York, I worked in the Financial/Banking field for 10 years. Not being able to totally put my artistic pursuits aside, I continued doing pencil sketches whenever I had the time. I seriously decided to return to my first love 'art' in 2007, when I joined the Visual Arts Center in Summit, New Jersey, to acquire formal training and since have completed two years of training in oil, pastels, acrylic, charcoal and watercolors. Additionally, I completed a Graphic Design Certification from Rutgers University, NJ in Dec 2008. I am currently committed to establishing a career as a fine artist.

## Nandita Ray

I came to the US as a 'green card holder' in Oct. 1987. I had my exposure to Information Technology in 1991. I have been working as an IT professional since 1992. I obtained my US citizenship in 1997. I have been a PMI certified Project Manager since 2006.

I have had a passion for art and culture since my early school days. I have developed an aptitude for a few styles of art and design ("alpana," "bridal face design" and "mehendi" are a few examples). I am happy to exercise my long-dormant skill on certain social occasions and upon request.