

## **ALEX STRAZZANTI - ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

Dishing It Up! is a true culmination of my life's work. As a social worker in the 90's, I enjoyed helping people with disabilities find gainful employment. But after a decade in social services, I found myself wanting to pursue my artistic side and started my photography business in 2003. After selling my photographs at the local Seattle farmer's markets, I quickly saw many other talented artists who needed venues in which to sell their work. My wife and I created Oasis Art Gallery in Wallingford which operated as a showcase for local artists for seven years. After we closed the gallery in 2012, I continued to focus on my photography business, mostly doing photography for realtors, designers and architects.

As I've built my photography business, my desire to increase access to affordable art and focus on social justice never waned. I remained engaged by establishing the Wallingford Art Walk, co-founding a non-profit called Plus One Foundation which gives grants to people with neurological disorders, and co-directing the Wedgwood Art Festival for seven years. All of these endeavors have been enriching on many levels and led me to meet a wonderful network of people.

Suddenly in February, 2018 I injured my shoulder during a training session and was unable to lift my camera for two months. As I lied on the couch bored but trying to heal, I started to think back to when I was a child I always enjoyed making up games to entertain me and my brother. While on the couch for weeks, at eye level I kept seeing the book '1,000 Foods to Eat Before you Die' by the renowned food critic Mimi Sheraton. I realized there isn't a food-focused game on the market and I imagined how fun it would be to create something to play with my foodie friends. I began sketching out the dishes as best I could and looking up fun facts about the origins of our food.

Today I'm so pleased that Dishing It Up! is in production and ready to be sold around the world. In true fashion, I wanted an element of this project to be a way of giving back. Each year a portion of the proceeds will be donated to local, national and international non-profit organizations dedicated to ending global hunger.

For more information about Alex and his projects, please visit the links below.

[Linkedin.com/in/alexstrazzanti/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexstrazzanti/)

[DishingItUpGame.com](http://DishingItUpGame.com)

[Strazzanti-Photography.com](http://Strazzanti-Photography.com)

[WedgwoodFestival.com](http://WedgwoodFestival.com)

[PlusOneFoundation.org](http://PlusOneFoundation.org)