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## Local Artist Showcases at The Cup in Wantagh

An array of abstract photos by Xiomaro is now on display at neighborhood cafe.

By [Nicole Murphy](#) | [Email the author](#) | 9:30am | [Print](#)

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From rock and roll, to entertainment law, to digital photography, Richard Dieguez - or Xiomaro, as he is known in the photography field - has experienced the arts in ways that many cannot understand.

Xiomaro's latest venture into the abstract world of photography is currently on display at [The Cup Coffeehouse](#) in Wantagh, showing a unique collection of photos that surpass the ordinary.

"I used to play open mics here at The Cup and I like the space," said Xiomaro. "I made note of that; and when I had a theme, I called up. They usually have more traditional photography exhibited but they liked my abstract work."

Although Xiomaro has practiced behind the lens for several years, he just took it on as his most serious career priority recently - focusing on everyday views in a new light.

"There are cutting edge math theories based on random shapes that repeat themselves known as fractal geometry," he explained. "As an artist, I think that's really interesting. I started seeing common things with that idea in mind."

Xiomaro's exhibit at The Cup features prints that have been photographed from landscapes all over the east coast, ranging from a quaint pond in Weir Farm, Connecticut, to the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, N.Y.

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Before picking up photography, Xiomaro practiced as an entertainment attorney for his own firm, Richard P. Dieguez, while playing guitar in a New York City-based rock band called Temple of Mud. Temple of Mud played original rock music throughout coffeehouses, street fairs and colleges in the northeast for several years.

Through Xiomaro's transitional career path, he experienced hurdles that made his drive as an artist even stronger.

"It was hard to keep my band together after a while and I tried to continue as a singer/songwriter on my own," Xiomaro told Patch. "A lot of my fan base was too accustomed to the band and my solo performance didn't have the same impact."

"Right around the time I stopped performing, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer," he added. "To find out you have cancer, you think that's it - but thankfully, it was caught early and I overcame it in about a year."

According to Xiomaro, his struggles drew him to photography the most - something new that fulfilled him and provided instant satisfaction.

"With photography, you can be solitary, by yourself - especially when photographing landscapes," said Xiomaro. "I can just wander around casually. I was able to get an immediate result and people really like the photos I take."

Xiomaro's exhibit, which started July 1, will be on display at The Cup Coffeehouse through the remainder of August. Come September, his photos will enter the Life Cafe in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Prints can be viewed and purchased on Xiomaro's website, and anyone who contacts the artist through his website will receive a free souvenir print.



*Xiomáro at The Cup*



*FractalScape: Bog*



*A pair of abstracts based on trees*



*The main exhibit wall at The Cup*



*FractalScape: Fountain*



*A trio of abstracts based on water*



*FractalScape: Beach Sand*



*FractalScape: Marsh*



*Xiomáro at The Cup*



*FractalScape: Pond*

