I graduated with a political science degree from the University of Georgia in December 1984, and the next month began working at the Central Maine Morning Sentinel in Waterville, beginning what has been, so far, a 32-year career in journalism. One of my early assignments was covering an event at the Colby College Museum of Art that included an interview with the artist Alex Katz. I don’t remember the details of the occasion, but I do remember feeling nervous, intimidated and out of my league. I grew up with art, but hadn’t written about contemporary art in a meaningful way and knew nothing about Alex Katz. To the best of my recollection, he tolerated me.

Things have improved since then. My career has taken me to Greenwich, Connecticut, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and back to Maine, where I have written about the arts for the Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram since 2002. Writing about the arts in Maine is a privilege. I tell the stories of creative, courageous and contrary thinkers, who trust me with their stories, their inspiration and their vision.

I approach my job with the goal of making art relevant for everyday Mainers, and will frame the next phase of my career emboldened by recognition and honor of the Rabkin Prize. I intend to stay focused on the arts and continue to tell artists’ stories, while writing about the importance of place in art, the role of artists in our culture and the function of culture in our self-identity and social values.