

Fatana Baktash Arifi

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Artist Bio

Fatana Baktash Arifi is a multitalented artist, resides in VA-USA. Since early childhood, she has created remarkable artworks in a variety of mediums and genres with the consistency of each series. As a realist artist, she creates prize-winning portraits and figurative paintings in oil, charcoal and pencil drawings and watercolor - each with a unique sense of beauty, likeness, and character. She also has some other series and projects in pen and ink and illustrations. She developed her own painting style named Handasasim, established in 1985, its concept rooted in realism and geometrical based forms that carries a particular mark of elegance and reality.

She has her MFA in Fine Arts from San Francisco's Academy of Art University. She has also an Art Diploma from Thompson Education Direct here in the states. She is graduated with a (Magna Cum Laude) M.F.A degree in Fine Arts from Kabul University; and also is graduated from Maimanagi Art Institute in Kabul, Afghanistan. And she also completed her 12 grades at Rabiha Balkhi High School at Kabul.

Fatana's portfolio includes numerous artistic endeavors and exhibitions, a body of accolades and awards, international recognition, and ongoing commissions and sales.

Fatana was the youngest visual artist and the first woman to be granted membership in Afghanistan's National Association of Artists and the first to have a permanent display of her work at the National Art Gallery of Kabul, and at the Art Gallery of Department of Fine Arts at Kabul University. She has served as a member of the National Association of Women Artists of New York, Empowered Women International, and Gallery West.

As an experienced art instructor, Fatana has taught art locally, nationally and internationally to local art centers, college and university programs. In 1995, she established the Maimanagi Art Center in Pakistan, which provided art services and art learning opportunities for talented refugees who struggled to cope with displacement and war. Presently, she works as the founder president of an online art organization named *Baktash Art Circle*.

Fatana also is a writer and every so often portrays her feeling in poetry in her native language Farsi. She is the author of Painting and its Status in Afghanistan, published by the Cultural Ministry of Afghanistan and she is the founding editor of an artistic publication named Art and Culture published in Pakistan for Artist and refugee talents.

She also knows graphic designing, web designing and computer programs like Photoshop, Microsoft office/ Publisher, CorelDraw and some similar programs and applications. Fatana also is a certified expert in picture framing design and an experienced entrepreneur in this industry.