

meet the artist

Helen Zarin



"Hard work and God-given talent are not enough for an artist to progress and blossom. Creative freedom in the right atmosphere is also essential."

The art of Helen Zarin has a deeply mystical quality that immediately arouses curiosity and intrigue. At first glance her art instills complete serenity, but closer scrutiny reveals a nervous energy beneath the peaceful surface. Helen achieves this captivating depth in both oil and pastels, though each medium creates a dramatically different effect. Her rich earth tones in oil are quiet and somber. Her pastel images, by contrast, are sprightly and ethereal. This range of sentiment captured by her palette continues to draw large audiences of viewers around the world.

Born in Shiraz, Iran in 1970, Helen's earliest memories are of painting. At the age of five, she began studying art at a private school. As her love of painting persisted through high school, she began training with the reputable Persian artist and instructor, Saber. This relationship was critical to her development as a professional artist. Saber helped her to refine her technique, rigorously insisting that she create a style all her own. At the same time, Helen also enrolled in the Art and Culture Society, a national organization for gifted Persian artists. Through this society, Helen was able to enter several competitions and win many national awards, gaining wide exposure for her work.

Restrictive conditions in her native country eventually propelled Helen to look elsewhere for her creative expression. Seeking support and recognition, she journeyed first to Europe and next to the United States, arriving in New York City in 1993. Impressed by the bristling energy of the city, Helen began studying at La Guardia University while absorbing the wealth of art in New York's museums and galleries. After three years, she moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where she studied English and advanced her art education at Catonsville Community College. Helen also met her husband there, whose acceptance into pharmacy school brought the two to Atlanta in 1996.

Currently working in Atlanta, Helen continues to enhance her work with diverse cultural experiences. Now driven by an environment that celebrates her work, Helen has become more prolific than ever before. Her work has been exhibited across the country.

