

Contact Info

Contact Info:

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Bio:

Sonia was born in 1996 in Florence, Italy. She is half Scottish-Canadian and half Ukrainian. As a young child she was able to experience the beautiful renaissance city of Florence and the incredible artistic ability of its historic master artists. Through her mother's artisan studio she learned many ancient techniques such as gilding and fresco from a young age, then proceeded to earn her bachelor's degree in fine arts from the Libera Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence in 2019. After graduating summa cum laudae with a thesis project on spiritual ascension in the industrialized world, she completed a specialization course on techniques and design for artisans. Her studies and her experiences of both traditional and contemporary art led her to develop her own form of artistic expression through painting on gilded surfaces, continuing to explore the concepts tied to spirituality and emotion. She has since participated in group exhibitions and art fairs both in Italy and internationally, and her work is featured in multiple online galleries.

Statement

As an artist I have always found great comfort in observing the sky and its clouds. The vastness of these moving masses of vapor never fails to remind me of my tiny place in the universe. I am inspired by the connection between the vastness of nature and my own internal world of emotions. I paint skyscapes on gilded surfaces, with a focus on atmospheric elements and clouds to explore a dimension between the physical and spiritual world. In this realm of intangible skies where nothing is really defined, the viewer can see the vague reflection of themselves surrounded by swirling clouds that obscure the pure golden light of the gilded surface. My choice to use gold leaf comes from my background working as a gilder in Florence, Italy. The gilded surface has always been symbolic of divinity in many different cultures and religions.

Education

2020 Technical Specialization Course

Design and Artisan Techniques for Wood and Gesso

PROM ART, Ambiente Impresa, Florence, Italy

2019 BFA in Visual Art

Department of Visual Art

Libera Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy

Graduated summa cum laude

Thesis Exhibition: "Ascension: Mysticism in the Geometry of Contemporary Urban Structures"

Faculty Mentor Professor Tannaz Lahiji

2015 High School Diploma in Graphic Arts & Design

Department of Graphic Design, Print Making, and Book Binding

Liceo Artistico di Porta Romana, Florence, Italy

Graduated with 90/100

Awards

2022 Art Takes 2022 - Emerge, See Me Art Competition, finalists exhibition , New York, United States

2021 Finalist in the contest Maestri a Milano international art award, judged by José Van Roy Dalí, Milan, Italy

2021 Selected to participate in Premio Fondazione Amedeo Modigliani 2022, Biella, Italy

2021 Kala-Ratna Samman award by the Kala-Kumbh International Art Exhibition, Bhopal, India

2020 Special Prize, International Mellow App Art Contest, Tokyo, Japan

Exhibitions

2022 The Other Art Fair, Truman Brewery, London, United Kingdom

2022 Art Week by Darte, Palazzo Turrisi and MUST Museum, Lecce, Italy

2022 Art Festival Dürnstein Abbey, Stift Dürnstein, Austria

2022 EMERGE Finalists Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Manhattan, New York, USA

2022 State of the Art, Galleria La Pigna, Rome Italy

2022 Group Online Exhibition, The Way, Albe Art Gallery, St. Petersburg, Russia

2021 Solo Online Exhibition, Dreamscapes, The Arts Inn Website, Florence, Italy

2019 Group Exhibition, Lapis Lazuli #3, Officina Giovani, Estuario Project Space, Prato, Italy

2018 Solo Exhibition, Transformation, The Arts Inn, Florence, Italy

Representation

Return on Art Online Gallery - Wattgasse 48, 1170 Vienna, Austria

Signet Contemporary Art Gallery - The Royal Borough of Chelsea & Kensington, 378 King's Rd, London SW3 5UZ, United Kingdom (Starting December 2022)

Professional Experience

2017–Present Gilder, Painter, and Decorator, Florenceart.net art studio, Florence, Italy

2017–Present Assistant Teacher, Florenceart.net art studio, Florence, Italy

2020 Studio Assistant, Tannaz Lahiji Artist, Florence, Italy

2019 Painter and Decorator, La Bottega di Giuliana Barbagallo, Artisan Studio, Florence, Italy

Links to Articles:

Artist Spotlight Interview, Return on Art:

https://returnonart.com/pages/sonia-bukhgalter-artist-spotlight?utm_source=Return+On+Art+%28Newsletter%29&utm_campaign=df552005fb-Artist+Spotlight+-+Gouws+%26+Bukhgalter+05.EU&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ee7026088-df552005fb-170039529&mc_cid=df552005fb&mc_eid=45d8a61fa3

The Art of The Drive, Mazda Stories:

https://mazdastories.ca/en_ca/explore/cx-30-lake-como/

Video Interview “Consigli D’Autore”, Teleregione Toscana (Italian Regional Television):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouX3zE1f4DQ&ab_channel=TeleregioneToscana

Al-Tiba9 Contemporary Art Magazine:

<https://www.altiba9.com/shop/al-tiba9-issue11-print-magazine>