

Markissia Touliatos

Originally from upstate New York, Markissia Touliatos knew from the age of five that she had a special ability and passion for art. Throughout her life, while raising her family of three children, she has continued to develop and refine her technique in oil and pastel. In addition to years of concentrated independent study to master her craft, she studied classical realism, portraiture, and landscape painting for four years at the Atelier of Plein-Air Studies, also attending workshops with well-known artists John Howard Sanden, Daniel Greene, Nelson Shanks, and Albert Handel.

Markissia has been a commissioned portrait painter for over thirty years and is especially adept in painting the portrait in alla prima techniques, using precision draftsmanship and rich accurate color.

Markissia's original passion for life-size portraits gave rise to her passion for also creating work on a miniature scale. As a result of that challenge, she has become an accomplished international award-winning artist of miniatures, painting in the historic traditional technique, combined with the classical techniques she uses in her large paintings. She is a signature member of three societies: The Miniature Artists of America, The Hilliard Miniature Art Society of England and The Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers in London, England. At their 2003 International Exhibition in London, at Westminster Hall, she was awarded two awards, The Mundy Sovereign Award for Best Portrait in the Exhibition and Runner-up for Best in Show. Also, overseas, she was awarded Best Portrait in the Exhibition from The Hilliard Society Annual International Exhibition in Wells, Somerset, England.

Her award winning art is included in many prestigious public and private collections. In 2004 her work was included in a group exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. and an exhibition at the Leepa-Ratner Museum of Art in Tarpon Springs, Florida. She also has had numerous group and one-person shows throughout her career including The American Society of Portrait Artists and the Miniature Art Society of Florida where she was awarded "Best Traditional Portrait Miniature" in their 2008 National Exhibition. She is a member of Oil Painters of America and her painting "La Charra" was a finalist in their 2007 Southeast Regional Show in Naples, Florida. Currently one of her oil portraits was chosen to be included in the 2008 Oil Painters of America National Show in May at the Dana Gallery in Missoula, Montana.

Markissia is an instructor at the Dunedin Fine Art Center holding classes in Painting the Portrait in Oils and Traditional Miniature Painting Techniques.