



Elena Bond

“In every brushstroke of my painting, there is a part of myself and my feelings; be it love or laughter, but never carelessness.” – Elena Bond

Elena Bond was born in Russia in the beautiful old city of Samara on March 20th, 1965 to a military doctor and a classical pianist. Elena started drawing at a very early age, using everything from a pencil to her mother's make-up. She came from a family of artists where her grandfather and great-father were both artists. Elena's family moved frequently around the Soviet Union because of her father's military work. She has lived in Kazakhstan, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Latvia, Litva, St. Petersburg, and Moscow. The largest part of her childhood was spent in Germany. Because of the frequent lifestyle changes, Elena was able to preserve memories of many different cultures and experiences. At the age of 11, she attended her first art school in St. Petersburg, Russia.

It is from this early experience that she came to the conclusion that she could be nothing other than an artist. The students of this particular school spent most of their time at museums such as the Russian Museum and Ermitazh, where they learned not only basic art, but theory as well. Elena's family moved to Middle Asia, which was then part of the Soviet Union, to the beautiful, sunny, and friendly state of Uzbekistan.

At 15, she attended the State College of Art in Uzbekistan majoring in Scenic Design which she completed with honors. She then went on to study at the Academy of Art, where she earned a Master's Degree in Fine Art. During this time Elena took part in many international, state, and local exhibitions. She became a member of the Artist's Union of Uzbekistan. She also worked in theatres creating set designs for the State Theatre of Opera and Ballet and the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. Returning to Uzbekistan, she continued her work, in the State Museum of Art as a restorer, teaching at the local University, and participating in exhibitions.

With the dismantling of the Soviet Union life changed – the divisive issues of nationality and religion resulted in the loss of wealth and stability for so many Soviet citizens. Fortunately, in 1999, Elena's family won a Green Card Lottery and immediately moved to the United States, where Elena was able to resume her painting, both recreationally and professionally. In her painting she has tried many styles and techniques: from simple still life and portraits to difficult, philosophical, multi-figured art. Whatever she paints, her main goal is to be honest and love what she creates. She currently resides in Miami with her husband and two daughters where she is a scenic designer for the Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida.