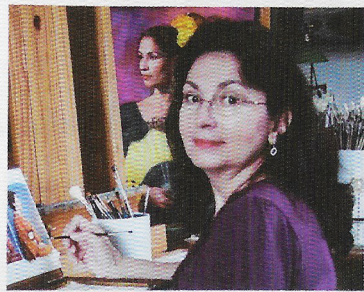


Markissia Touliatos, M.A.A., R.M.S.

Markissia Touliatos has been an artist for most of her life. Born and raised in upstate New York, she now resides in Tarpon Springs, Florida. She has been a professional portrait painter for over forty years completing many corporate and private commissions. She is especially adept in painting the portrait from life in the Alla Prima technique which is defined by precision of draftsmanship and rich accurate color at the first go. 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 with Allan R. Banks. She has also studied with well-known masters, John Howard Sanden, Daniel Greene, Nelson Shanks, and Albert Handel.



Markissia's original passion for life-size portraits inspired her passion for creating portraits and landscapes on a miniature scale. As a result of that challenge, she has become an accomplished international award-winning painter of miniatures, painting in the historic traditional technique, combined with the classical techniques of her large paintings. She is a Signature member of the Miniature Artists of America and the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers of London, England. She also is a member of the Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, DC, the Cider Painters of America and the Oil Painters of America.

All through her career she has been a frequent award winner at numerous international exhibitions. Among her many First Place Awards over the years, she was awarded by the Royal Miniature Society of London, Best Portrait in the Exhibition, the President's Commendation Awards, and Runner-up for Best in Show. Also, overseas, she was awarded Best Portrait in the Exhibition from The Hilliard Society in Wells, Somerset, England. Locally she has won Best Traditional Portrait Miniature at the Miniature Art Society of Florida and was awarded Best of Show at the Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, DC.

The artist was honored with the commission by the State of Florida to paint the miniature portraits of Florida's First Ladies, Carol Crist and Ann Scott, which are now included in the permanent collection "The First Ladies of Florida". These paintings have joined twelve miniatures of the previous first ladies whose likenesses are on display at the Governor's Mansion. Upcoming this year, adding to the collection, she will also be painting the portrait of the new First Lady, Casey DeSantis.

In addition to completing numerous commissioned portraits from life size to miniature, Markissia is an instructor at the Dunedin Fine Art Center in Dunedin, Florida, holding classes in Portrait Painting, Still Life Painting, Miniature Painting and Plein Air Landscape Painting.

Judge's Statement

It was a great honor to be asked to judge the prestigious Miniature Art Society of Florida Annual International Exhibition of 2020. As a frequent award-winning miniature painter, I know what goes into creating one of these jewel-like works of art.

This form of art is very different from creating large paintings. It requires enormous concentration, exacting control of the chosen medium and a passion for intricate detail. For the award winners to reach this level of expertise takes years of practice and discipline. The criteria I looked for were accurate drawing, exquisite detail, harmonious color and the feeling the piece conveyed.

This was a daunting task of deciding which of the many beautiful works deserved an award. I wish I could have given more awards to the incredible paintings I was privileged to view and enjoy. I congratulate all the artists for their incredible work and dedication to this wonderful art form.

Markissia Touliatos

