

Portrait of the Artist by Irina Pisarenko, oil on canvas



**Nov.21-Dec.7th with an Artist
Reception on Nov. 21st from 3-6 PM.**

An Artist statement

Every true artist is not a factory manufacturing one product over and over again, but a soul living in art and with art, going through different creative periods; constantly learning, absorbing and reflecting, sharing life experiences, either consciously or subconsciously.

Often in life things happen by chance -- OUT OF THE BLUE, seemingly unconnected. Yet, looking back at events, at certain times, it's possible to recognize reasons and see the chain of connections. Once, I looked at the body of my work and realized that in many paintings the color BLUE was prevalent. It wasn't any deliberate attempt to have BLUE dominate my work, but something was making me use that particular color a lot. I also noticed that after years of painting in realistic and impressionistic styles I began broadening my work into experimental/abstract direction. I collected those paintings and called them "BLUE PERIOD", which I am presenting at this show. Why "BLUE PERIOD" paintings and etchings together? Out of the blue? Perhaps, but Irina Pisarenko's enchanting etchings depict St. Petersburg, Russia, one of the most romantic and mysterious cities in the world and the color BLUE has always been associated with mystery, and invitation to revery, which is very much a character of St. Petersburg. And how romantic are the famous "white nights" in a city in the month of June, when the soft BLUE of twilight wraps you gently all night long.

BLUE does not shock, offend or disgust. It represents peace, spirituality and beauty in Western art throughout history. Among other things, the color BLUE

FROM RUSSIA WITH ART

gallery



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**MARIA BABLYAK "OUT OF
THE BLUE WITH A GOLDEN
DROP"**

brings images of water to mind; and water symbolizes birth, renewal, change. Every painting, unless it's a copy, is a birth of something that did not exist before.

BLUE is the color of air, "air perspective" which can be clearly seen, for example, in Leonardo Da Vinci's paintings. Air connects everything around us, hence it is a color of connection, at the same time the color of distance. Therefore, "OUT OF THE BLUE" can be interpreted as "Coming out of the distance" or "Approaching, appearing" and that is what an artist does through the paintings: approaches the viewer.

BLUE can also represent cold, shadow and depression, "OUT OF THE BLUE WITH A GOLDEN DROP" can be seen as overcoming those conditions, where the golden drop is a warm color, the sun, light. I should note here that cold and shadow are a very welcome relief in hot climates, so it's all about personal perceptions. BLUE was a very precious color in the West. Since it was made from particular semi-precious stones, it was rather expensive, sometimes more costly than gold. "OUT OF THE BLUE WITH A GOLDEN DROP" is a hint of that fact. Golden drop is also a reference to a legend of St. Nicolas, who threw gold into a window of a very poor family to save them. That family's fortune changed "OUT OF THE BLUE".

All of those thoughts and more contributed to the "OUT OF THE BLUE WITH A GOLDEN DROP" exhibition at From Russia with Art Gallery, which is presented now for the viewer's enjoyment and contemplation.