**Elena Pak**

My interest in art started back in high school. I first made pencil portraits of my classmates, and later on, of my children. I never thought of seriously painting until my husband bought me oil paints as a birthday gift several years ago. Since then, I started to paint and enjoy it very much. I am self-taught and my inspiration comes from classic Russian painters like Issac Levitan, Nikolai Rerikh, Konstantin Makovsky, and Karl Bryullov and contemporary artists Bill Alexander, Igor Saharov and Vladimir Volegov. My favorite styles are impressionism and realism. My main media is oil. Capturing people’s emotions when painting portraits and beauty when painting landscapes is something I love.