

BIOGRAPHY

Originally from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Milena moved to Fargo with her family in the snowy Christmas season of 2000. Although she still misses the mountains, she has come to love the beautiful sunrises and the golden light of the sweeping Dakota sunsets.



In Bulgaria, Milena studied graphic arts and illustration and after graduating she worked as an art teacher and then as a curator and guide in the Department of Old Art in the Central Gallery of Plovdiv. It was at that time that she became captivated by the rich history and centuries-old techniques and artistic mysticism of religious art.

Milena apprenticed under Elena Kantareva, a prominent iconographer who teaches Iconography and Art History in the Academy of Fine Art in Plovdiv. Milena went on to work over a decade at the National Institute of Cultural Heritage. Hers was a labor of love, restoring the original frescos and icons in synagogues, churches, mosques, public buildings, houses, and ancient tombs.

Exhibitions of her iconography, oil paintings, ink drawings, and aquatint printing have been shown in Bulgaria and is in private collections in France, England, Norway, Finland, Germany, Czech Republic, America, Canada, Singapore, and Japan. Milena's iconography can be found in the All Saints Orthodox Church in Fargo, North Dakota.

Milena has made Fargo her home, where she has made extraordinary and wonderful friendships growing new roots deep into the Dakota soil. She can be reached at mila.marinov@gmail.com.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I have been drawing for as long as I can remember. Art has always been a source of spiritual nourishment to me. Nature and ordinary things are an endless source of inspiration for my work. Drawing with ink is an unforgiving technique – it requires absolute precision, attention to detail, and patience. I find it especially suitable for expressing the mesmerizing splendor of an old tree symbolizing the harmony of wisdom, age, and beauty.

Other works of art, quite different in terms of artistic message, are the oil-on-canvas paintings, which I created in the warm colors of summer, inspired by my childhood dreams of the seemingly endless summer vacations in the beautiful and perpetually sunny south of Europe.