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# FLORIDA





Elena Bulatova, *Pastel*, mixed media on canvas, 48" x 72". All images are courtesy of the artist.

## ELENA BULATOVA: ABSTRACT HARMONIES

Since an early age, Elena Bulatova has demonstrated an uncommon ability to comprehend her surroundings and has displayed a special passion for art. Trained as a violinist in her native Russia, she graduated with honors in public administration from Moscow State University, and then in 2007 from Yale University, where she was recipient of a Fox International Fellowship. Since then, she has built a successful career as a painter, participating in several exhibitions and art fairs throughout the United States. She sat with us recently to talk about her oeuvre and upcoming projects.

By Denise Colson

*Denise Colson - I know that besides your career as a painter, you studied music in your native country. When did start your vocation in the arts? Tell me about your training as a professional artist.*

Elena Bulatova - I attended art school for seven years and played violin in chamber orchestra in Moscow State University. I was always close to all kinds of arts. I sang in a monastery choir and in a school vocal ensemble. I was part of the dancing group Fusion at Yale University. Right now, I am focused on developing and improving a career as a painter. My paintings show my passion for art.

*D.C. - I visualize your paintings as the expression of an intimate spiritual journey. Tell me about your creative process, beginning from the conceptualization to the execution of a piece?*

E.B. - Inspiration comes from everywhere, sometimes very unpredictable. The artist should stay open and attentive to everything that is going on the world all the time. My abstract art implies the expression of ideas concerning the spiritual, the unconscious and the mind.

*D.C. - What are your preferred pictorial techniques and materials?*

E.B. - I paint on canvas mostly. I work with mixed media



1. Elena Bulatova, *Solitude*, mixed media on canvas, 60" x 48"

2. *Allegria*, mixed media on canvas, 60" x 48"

3. *Hunting Tiger*, mixed media on canvas, 60" x 48"

4. *Savannah*, mixed media on canvas, 60" x 48"

and like to experiment with colors, shapes and forms. I don't limit myself in the choice of mediums, but mostly I use acrylics and metallic paints.

*D.C. - What artists and artistic movements have influenced your style and your creative evolution?*

E.B. - I believe that most of my work is very close to abstract expressionism. This art movement has many stylistic similarities to the Russian artists of the early 20th century, such as Wassily Kandinsky. Although it is true that the impression of spontaneity characterizes many of my abstract expressionist works, most of these paintings involved careful planning, especially since their large size demanded it.

*D.C. - In which collections can your paintings be found? How has your work been received by American collectors?*

E.B. - My paintings are part of many private and important collections in the USA, Canada, Russia, Australia and Mexico.

*D.C. - What paintings are you working on at the moment?*

E.B. - Last year, I was working on my "Splash" series—thick, black swirling lines on a relatively monochrome bright

background. I am currently working on a new series of paintings that feature a lot of metallic paint and are very bold.

*D.C. - Last year was very successful for your career, as you participated in several art fairs, festivals and exhibitions in Las Vegas, Miami and on the West Coast, specifically in San Diego, Palm Springs, Santa Ana and Irvine, California, among others. What is your exhibition schedule in the coming months?*

E.B. - My schedule is very busy. In the next couple of months, I will exhibit in the Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art in Las Vegas. Also, my artwork will be included in *International Contemporary Masters, Volume VII*, an international art book published by World Wide Art Books. Additionally, I am preparing a solo show in Palm Springs, California. I will also be participating in a charity event at Patty & Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art in Naples, Florida. I will exhibit in the New York Artexpo, and next summer I will exhibit in the International Biennale in Miami. ■

For more information about Elena Bulatova, visit [elenabulatova.com](http://elenabulatova.com).

*Denise Colson is an arts writer based in Miami.*