

Artist Name:

Siroos Tamaddoni Jahromi

I was born in a small town south of Shiraz, Iran in 1937 but Tallahassee has been my home since 1981. Upon completion of my undergraduate work in Iran, I started graduate studies at the University of Florida in 1966. I received a M.Sc. degree in Silviculture in 1967 and a Ph.D. in Forest Genetics in 1971. I retired in 2003, after working for 8 years at the Forestry Research Institute in Tehran, Iran and 24 years as the manager of Forest Genetics Research at International Paper in the U.S.

I started oil painting at the Tallahassee Senior Center with Dr. Charles Hazelip in January of 2010. Since then, I have taken additional classes at the TSC with Eluster Richardson and acrylic painting at LeMoyne with Dean Gioia.

I had no experience with painting until the morning that, at the insistence of my wife, I drove to the Tallahassee Senior Center and asked Dr Hazelip if I could attend his class. After seeing the students in action, I became so excited that I rushed to a local store to purchase painting supplies and promptly returned to the class to start my first ever painting. Charles showed me how to prepare (tone) my canvas, how to mix the paints, and even how to use the brushes. My first painting was of St Marks lighthouse, using a photograph provided by Charles. Since then, painting has become an important part of my weekly routine.

For me, a major source of inspiration to paint comes from our annual family visits to Europe. I am always amazed by the beautiful paintings of people and landscapes hanging on the walls of the museums as well as the beautiful cities that we visit. Another inspiration is that my paintings will be mementos for my children and grand children.

I enjoy painting both in oil and acrylic. I feel oil is an easier medium for portrait painting since it stays wet long enough to achieve soft color transition. I prefer acrylic for landscape paintings because it dries fast and allows painting of multiple layers within a single session.

My favorite painting subjects are those that include both nature and old, or historic, structures. Other landscape subjects include interesting places I have visited. In portraits, I like to paint family members, and also people in traditional garb.

Since I started painting, I have become more interested in visiting art museums. Now I pay much closer attention to the technical details of the works. I also do internet searches of selected artists and use their paintings as an inspirational source.

Based on my short experience with painting, I am convinced that adults of all ages with spare time, but especially retirees, can use painting to produce/create something beautiful, interesting, and long lasting. For a retiree, painting can be something to look forward to every day, instead of being bored or watching TV.

So my recommendation is, if you have some spare time, go paint something. It is good for your mind and your body.