

## Vakhtang

Vakhtang (Vah-ta'ng) was born in 1972 Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. His grandfather, a well known Georgian artist, often took the little boy to his studio and taught him how to draw and paint. The grandfather would arrange a still life and the two of them would paint it together, then talk about what they both saw and painted. After still life came landscape (plein air painting) and then portraits.

Since age five, Vakhtang took part in exhibitions of Children's paintings and in 1989 received a gold medal on a nation-wide juried competition of children's paintings in Tbilisi. This was followed by another honorary diploma in a Children's art competition in 1990.

Since 1998 Vakhtang was studying in the school for children gifted in art. In 1996 he was accepted to the Tbilisi Academy of Art. It was in 1999 during summer practice at the St. Petersburg Academy of Fine Art where he first saw the works of Levitan and Coro. That had a huge impact on his vision of art and helped shape him as a landscape artist. Vakhtang began to understand that he wanted to paint landscapes, but in a way that show his feelings and inner world. Landscapes are his way to give people warm feelings and positive emotions.

During his school years he continued to actively participate in exhibitions, both group and solo. Vakhtang experimented with styles and manners, tried surrealism, modern decorative styles, hyper realism, but more and more understood that what he calls "Lyrical Landscape" is his true love in art. The last two years at the academy were spent wandering the hills and valleys of his native Georgia, often with friends, sometimes alone. He was sketching hundreds of trees, hills, peasants' homes and girls milking cows. He continued to perfect his style and steady his hand.

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