

[Untitled](#) , (circa 2012) by [Alexander Astahov](#)  
Original Oil on Canvas - Main Subject: Surrealism



**Item Number**  
2095513497

**Retail Value**  
\$1,500

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**Dimensions (As Shown)**  
24W x 20H Inches  
60.96W x 50.8H cm

**Medium**  
Original Oil on Canvas

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## About Alexander Astahov

Alexander Astahov is known for his colorful, surrealistic style and his signature butterfly, featured in each of his works. His series of magnificent interiors pays tribute to the masters, including Miro, Chagall and Van Gogh.

Astahov was born in Petropavlovsk, Russia in 1955. He studied at the High School of Arts in Oryol from 1972 till 1977 and later completed Post Graduate study and work at the Moscow Surikov High Art Institute. In 1982, Astahov began working as an art teacher at the Bryansk School of Painting, where he specializes in graphical arts.

In 1995 he became a member of the Artist Union List of Russia in graphical art. Astahov has exhibited in Russia and abroad, and his personal exhibition was held in Bryansk in 1998.

## Original Oil on Canvas

Oil painting is the process of painting with pigments that are bound with a medium of drying oil especially in early modern Europe, linseed oil. Often an oil such as linseed was boiled with a resin such as pine resin or even frankincense; these were called 'varnishes' and were prized for their body and gloss. Other oils occasionally used include poppyseed oil, walnut oil, and safflower oil. These oils confer various properties to the oil paint, such as less yellowing or different drying times. Certain differences are also visible in the sheen of the paints depending on the oil. Painters often use different oils in the same painting depending on specific pigments and effects desired. The paints themselves also develop a particular feel depending on the medium.

Oil paint was first used, as current knowledge shows, in western Afghanistan sometime between the 5th and 9th Centuries. From there its practice likely migrated westward until, when in the Middle Ages, (Theophilus mentions oil media in the 12th Century) it came into use, although not widespread, in Europe. It later became the principal medium used for creating artworks; the transition beginning during the 15th century with Early Netherlandish painting in northern Europe. By the height of the Renaissance oil painting techniques had almost completely replaced tempera paints in the majority of Europe. Oil painting dates in the West to at least ancient Roman times.

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