

[Air of Mystery](#) by [Irina Velkova](#)

Hand Embellished Giclee on Canvas - Main Subject: Figurative





**Item Number**  
4237434916

**Retail Value**  
\$1,500

**ArtRev.com Price**  
\$800  
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**Dimensions (As Shown)**  
24W x 36H Inches  
60.96W x 91.44H cm

**Medium**  
Hand Embellished Giclee on Canvas

**Edition**  
- Limited Edition of 350  
- Hand-Signed   
- Numbered 

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**About Irina Velkova**

Irina Velkova was born in 1970 in Belostok in the former USSR and despite living under a government known for suppressing creativity, Velkova devoted herself to self-expression even as a child. When she was young, Velkova was involved in many visual and performance arts she danced, played music, painted, and sculpted, and did all well, but her interests quickly gravitated to painting and drawing. She earned a number of regional and all-USSR juried children's shows and exhibitions these areas and by the age of eleven, she had her first solo exhibition; deemed a child prodigy, Velkova was invited to put on an exhibition entitled *People on My Street* at the City Pioneer Center.

This show included her first attempts at using oils paints (she had previously used watercolor); from this point onward, Velkova dedicated herself to oil-on-canvas paintings, leaving watercolor, pastels, sculpting clay, and other media behind. She developed her natural talents quickly and at fourteen years old she began her formal training at the City Art College in Kiev, Ukraine. At twenty, she continued her education at the National Academy of Fine Arts, graduating with valedictory honors in 1998. Since her graduation, Velkova has participated in a number of exhibitions and award shows; among the honors she has received are the second place and special accommodations titles for the highest degree of professionalism at the juried exhibition *Contemporary Portrait* (Odessa, Ukraine, 2002) and first place honors at *Land of Our Fathers*, a juried exhibition (Kiev, Ukraine, 2005). Velkova continues to exhibit her remarkable artwork extensively in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, France, and Poland.

In 2010 she was selected as one of 100 Russian women to receive the Order of St. Ekaterina, given for outstanding achievement in the fields of art and science, as well as the high honor of the Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Russian Culture.

## Hand Embellished Giclee on Canvas

Giclee [zhee-clay] is a French term meaning a 'squirt or spray of ink'. This process utilizes sophisticated printing techniques whereby an industrial 8-Color to 12-Color inkjet printer sprays a staggering four million droplets of ink per second onto archival fine art paper or canvas. Requiring highly sophisticated printers and special pigment inks for an extremely wide color gamut, this blend of fine art and state-of-the-art technology produces exceptional fine art prints. Giclee prints are usually coated with a high quality gloss or varnish to minimize abrasion and increase resistance to image fading. Additionally, protective coatings protect expensive prints against moisture.

Giclee prints render deep, saturated colors and retain minute detail, subtle tints and blends. The quality of the giclee print rivals traditional silver-halide and gelatin printing processes and is commonly found in museums, art galleries, and photographic galleries.

The giclee printing process provides better color accuracy than other means of reproduction. The prints may be hand embellished by the artist using paint, ink and gold foil stamping for a mixed media effect. Giclee prints are sometimes mistakenly referred to as Iris prints, which are 4-Color ink-jet prints from a printer pioneered in the late 1970s by Iris Graphics.

Numerous examples of giclee prints can be found in New York City at the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Chelsea Galleries. Recent auctions of giclee prints have fetched as much as \$20,000.

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