

[Ladies Choice](#) , (circa 2008) by [Irina Velkova](#)  
Original Acrylic on Canvas - Main Subject: Portrait



**Item Number**  
4658339124

**Retail Value**  
\$8,000

**ArtRev.com Price**  
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**Dimensions (As Shown)**  
30W x 36H Inches  
76.2W x 91.44H cm

**Medium**  
Original Acrylic on Canvas

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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.

## Original Acrylic on Canvas

Acrylic paint is fast-drying paint containing pigment suspended in an acrylic polymer emulsion. Acrylic paints can be diluted with water, but become water-resistant when dry. Depending on how much the paint is diluted with water or modified with acrylic gels, mediums, or pastes, the finished acrylic painting can resemble a watercolor or an oil painting, or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with the other media. Acrylics were first made commercially available in the 1950s.

The main difference between acrylics and oil paints is the inherent drying time. Oils allow for more time to blend colors and apply even glazes over underpaintings. This slow drying aspect of oil can be seen as an advantage for certain techniques, but in other regards it impedes the artist trying to work quickly.

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