

TAMIM ETEMADI

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Tamim Etemadi is an Afghan artist whose versatile works cover canvas, paper and oil paintings, interior design, landscape architecture as well as stage and costume design.

His work uniquely blends Afghan motifs and shapes with 20th century Italian and Spanish abstract art and has been exhibited in the US, Europe and Asia.

As a Professor of Fine Arts at Kabul University, Etemadi has educated a generation of young Afghan artists and greatly contributed to Afghanistan's long tradition in fine art.

Born in 1942 in Kabul and educated at the prestigious Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, Etemadi was exposed to art at an early age through his travels to Western Countries with his diplomat father. His art education and practice was carefully guided by his father, who himself had a talent and interest in art.

Etemadi's earliest work was in the academic tradition. By his late teens he studied the works of the French impressionists and postimpressionists, leaving behind the realism of his formal training.

In 1965, Etemadi won a scholarship to study at the The Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. While in Italy, Etemadi developed his own unique "voice", uniquely capturing the rich and colorful nature of Afghanistan in the style of 20th century Italian and Spanish abstract art. Etemadi's subsequent works were exhibited in numerous Group Shows throughout Europe.

After completing his studies at The Academy of Fine Arts in Rome in 1974, Etemadi returned to Afghanistan where he joined the newly established Kabul University as a Professor of Fine Arts. During that period, Etemadi began to experiment with traditional Afghan shapes and ancient motifs, wanting to express his deep love for his country.

The British Council in Kabul commissioned him to do three murals for their auditorium. He was also commissioned to work on several paintings for the Afghan Embassy in Rome, Italy.

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned Etemadi to do several paintings. Unfortunately, due to the Soviet invasion, his work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was left uncompleted.

Etemadi had always had a strong interest in interior design as well. While teaching at the Kabul University, he worked on several projects for government, commercial, and private buildings. He also designed stage sets and costumes for the Kabul Theater in Afghanistan.

In 1978, after the communist take over of Afghanistan, Etemadi found his life in danger. He was forced to leave behind a large collection of his artwork and flee his native country. While in exile in Germany, he produced several more paintings, which were purchased by private collectors.

In 1980 Etemadi relocated to the United States, He continued his quest to express the reality of Afghanistan and his own life experience on canvas.

Various international collectors have purchased his works. The World Bank in Washington D.C. has acquired several paintings as well as Toyota Corporation USA, Orion Corporation M.E.D.A. Corp. and several Law Firms in New York City and Washington D.C., among others.

Tamim Etemadi currently resides in Virginia, USA.