

HISTORY OF RUHULLAH NAQSHBANDI

Ruhullah was born in Kabul in March 1957. He knew when art became his passion. In primary school in Kabul he had a special art teacher who recognised his talent at a very young age. He encouraged Ruhullah to enter a competition at school where he painted in Watercolor a scene of traditional Afghani Dancers.

His teacher encouraged him to enter this painting, he won 1st and family supported him to enter a Special Competition in Japan his painting won First Prize in the Schools Exhibition.

With the belief and support of his special teacher and his families support, his love of Art began.

Afghanistan only possess two "Master Painters" who were now elderly, so they set out to train or find great artists capable of taking over from these Masters.

When Ruhullah was in High School the government started these 3 year courses to find new "Masters".

Ruhullah joined this group but during this course both Masters died. Ruhullah showed much talent, learning the techniques and becoming a well-known artist. He also won another major 1st Prize with his painting "Storm" in Pastels.

1978 Ruhullah became a student of Fine Arts, at Kabul University

1982 He joined the faculty where he remained, went on to University, studies Art and graduated

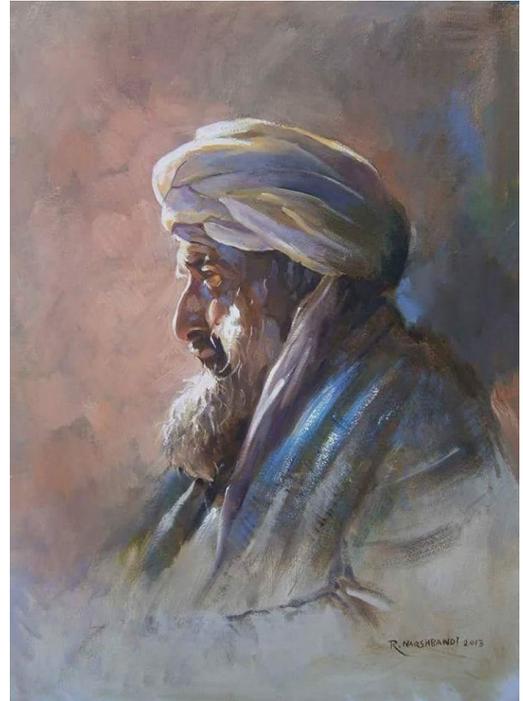
During the next five years he became Assistant and then Chief Commissioner of the University Art Department as well, then followed as the Director of Art for the Afghani Art Union, this encompassed Art, film and theatre.

He also started a family with his wife Aziza and three sons.

His work is individualistic in style and diverse in subject matter. Ranging from formal portraiture to life studies, from landscapes to vignettes of life in his home city as well as allegorical themes. He works in a wide variety of media including oils, watercolours, pen-and-ink and pencil studies. His portraits, while wholly original, have been compared to those of Augustus Jon, Britain's greatest 20th Century portrait artist after James MacNeill Whistler.

Of special interest to those familiar with war-time Kabul, he is nearly unique in avoiding the influences of "Socialist Realism," a politicised genre promoted heavily by the governments of 1978-1991. He prefers scenes of ordinary life among the colorful people of one of the world's most exotic capital cities.

His work has been shown in solo exhibitions in Afghanistan and Turkey and has participated in group



exhibitions in Iran and India. His works reside in private and governmental collections in New York, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Germany France, Bulgaria and of course Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In 1992?? War then broke out in Afghanistan, life changed dramatically and Ruhullah eventually escaped to Pakistan taking only his wife and sons and his sketchbook.

He had been befriended in Kabul in his younger days by a famous American lady Nancy Dupree who was known as "the grandmother of Afghanistan. She had been living over 70 years in Afghanistan.

In 1994 During this time of unrest they became reunited and Nancy helped Ruhullah organise an Exhibition at the American Club in "Peshawar "of his sketches (which was all he had left). He sold every sketch, raising enough money to take his family to Karachi to settle.

At Karachi he painted and taught at their Art Council, running workshops and exhibitions and made good income, they lived in Karachi approx. 10 year.

He had won three major medals and was paid well by government as well as many minor awards.

One of his major achievements was a Memorial to the Afghan Soldiers at the Afghan Museum for Soldiers.

Consists of a 15 meter painting set up as a 3-D Depiction of the Afghan war. Ruhullah's dream is you emulate this scene for the Anzac's of Australia

2005 Ruhullah and his family came to Australia to live. He attended Kings College in Penrith studying Graphic Design and attended Group Exhibitions at St George College.

He went through a period of depression and illness after losing his family in Kabul and re-establishing his family in Australia.

His sons have excelled in their fields , his first son being a Scientist and teaching at Sydney University owning his own Robotics Solutions Company, his second son is an Architect and his third son still at Uni studying physiotherapy.

2015 he joined The City of Parramatta Art Society , painting and Winning a 1st and 2nd at their major exhibition at Parramatta Town Hall.

He is now enjoying Australian life, involved in painting and the Parramatta community. He is heavily involved in the Art Society doing Portraiture Classes and having his first Solo Exhibition in Parramatta consisting of Portraits and Landscapes of Afghanistan and some beautiful Australian land and seascapes, delving into Contemporary and Abstracts.

