



## KATERINA MERTIKAS

### BIOGRAPHY

Katerina Mertikas (nee Patrinos) was born in Greece but now resides in Canada. She has been painting professionally since 1992, the joy depicted in her paintings and her genius as a colourist has won her the admiration of art collectors across Canada and beyond. Initially her two daughters were the inspiration of her whimsical colourful works and it's through those early years that her works flourished and showed a happy side of life.

Internationally renowned painter Katerina Mertikas follows in the footsteps of some great masters of a "naive expressionism genre". Such as Anna Mary Robertson, ("Grandma") Moses, exotic jungles of Henri Rousseau and the palmy south Seal Isles and pristine Tahitian women of Paul Gauguin.

As a naive expressionistic painter, her works are characterized by a refreshing innocence, a charming use of bright colours, the near universal appeal of Katerina's exhilarating paintings portrays the simple, easily understandable and often idealized scenes of childhood, bustling with colour and excitement. Her paintings are full of originality and creatively captures scenes of the Canadian landscape, it's seasons and popular traditions.

She does not seek to the change the world through her art but rather pretend that the magic of the art may help the viewer to turn to the simpler things of life that warms the heart and soothes the soul.

Many of her paintings have been on UNICEF cards sold internationally. Since 1993, she was also the first Ottawa artist to have her works accepted by UNICEF. Katerina has received several awards from her peers and has also received the UNITED Way Community award builder and her name is seen on a plaque in City Hall. Katerina believes in giving back to the community at large and does so through donations of rights for many other worthy charity greeting cards, calendars, and donations of her paintings that help out by raising funds for hospitals, children's aid, women's shelters and many other great causes.

Katerina has illustrated 2 books, Days to Treasure- A book of Seasons, and We Stand on Guard.

In fact, one of her paintings hangs in the Ottawa Mayors boardroom, "Honouring my Father" was printed by Koyman Galleries as a limited edition and with the support of Ottawa's city hall, Post Media and other radio, and newspaper outlets the print was sold worldwide which raised \$75,000.00 and deposited to the slain corporal Nathan Cirillo's son Marcus' Trust fund.

Katerinas works are sold at Koyman Galleries.

### ARTIST STATEMENT

"I love vivid colours. I love the feeling that painting creates within me-especially when I'm bringing to life the joy and excitement of children. I try to capture life's happiest & most special moments on every canvas I paint."