

Meet Altin Stoja

I grew up in Albania. There, the church and nature were like a playground for me. When I was a kid, I had two passions: to play outside and to paint. I saw the paintings and murals in the church, and they inspired me to paint. When I was old enough, I went to school to become an artist. I learned to paint iconography with a master artist in Greece.

Icons are traditional, symbolic paintings of biblical stories. I also paint pomegranates, sunflowers, and beautiful landscapes of places where I like to be outside.

It was my dream to paint.

It took me many years to master my art. I have been painting for more than 30 years. I made many mistakes, and many beautiful pieces of art too. I have lived in Albania, Greece, and now in America. I speak the language of each country.

Now I open my eyes and I see my dream become reality. The Saint Sophia Orthodox Church in Albany is filled with my paintings.

I want you to enjoy my work and for you, the students, to enjoy your class, and art, nature. You can capture the places, people, and things you enjoy in your own art.

