

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

(2 pages)

Sepi is a self-taught artist residing and working in Nashville, Tennessee. After an extensive formal education in science and engineering and a distinguished 20-year career in medical research, she rekindled her dormant childhood passion for visual art and painting. During her formative years in Austria, she developed a profound love for mountainous landscapes and a keen awareness of the impact of human civilization on the environment. Her creative journey began with modern interpretations of mountain scenery and evolved into an integrated style inspired by contemporary artists such as Ed Ruscha and Anselm Kiefer, each imparting distinct elements to her artistic expression.

Her artwork is best described as a fusion of transforming mountains into abstract shapes that float against a minimalist background, representing the "silent universe." Her style encompasses three key elements: a reduced color palette, the implementation of graphic and geometric design elements to balance realism with abstraction, and the subtle integration of conceptual themes highlighting the human and urban footprint on nature.

Inspired by the architect Tom Kundig's work, Sepi began experimenting with various painting materials—including acrylic, pen, pencil, charcoal, fiber paste, and crackle paste—to evoke a sense of timelessness and create surfaces that exude a weathered, aged, and fragmented appearance.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Each of my works is a non-assuming yet profound exploration of the coexistence between humanity and nature. I like to capture the delicate balance and subtle interactions, illustrating how human presence is interwoven with the natural rocky world in both ordinary and nuanced ways. In 2005, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where the green and rocky landscape of middle Tennessee became my new natural obsession. The view of the rocky roadside, seen everywhere from the trip from the airport to downtown or the road trip to Ashland City Quarry, deeply influences my artwork.

Fun Facts

My mother's Persian/Armenian last name, Naghashian, translates to "the clan or family of painting artists." This unique heritage adds an interesting dimension to my background. I'm considering using Naghashian as my artist's name.

ARTIST RESUME

Name: Sepi Shokouhi (Artist name: Sepi Naghashian)

lived in London (UK), Istanbul (Turkey), Tehran (Iran), Feldbach (Austria), Graz (Austria), Stony Brook (NY, USA), Nashville (TN, USA)

Resident: Nashville, TN since 2005

Phone number: (631)-513-0547

Email: Shokous@gmail.com

Art Studio: Approximately 900 SQFT space converted to an art studio and at-home art gallery.

Artist Website: www.sepiandart.com

Artist Instagram: @shokous

Art Education: None

Other Education: M.S. in Physics (Graz University of Technology, Graz, Austria), Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering (Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA), Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuroimaging (Vanderbilt University Medical Center)

Art Publications

1990: BORG Feldbach (School art exhibition)

2023: Artistcloseup magazine: <https://www.artistcloseup.com/blog/artist-profile-sepi-57rc5>

2024: Swiss Art Expo