

## Elena Popova

### Artist's Statement:

I was born in 1961 in Sofia, Bulgaria. I grew up under the artistic wing of my father, who was a sculptor and my mentor. My memories of those early years are of long conversations and formative advice, coming from my father and his many artistic colleagues. Only recently have I begun to understand how the spiritual atmosphere that embraced me in my youth, has played a crucial role in my development as an artist

I started to paint seriously when I was eleven, Two years later I began my formal artistic training; 5 years at the National High School of Fine Arts and 6 years at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia, where I earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts. By the age of 24 I was becoming a successful young painter in my native land and was honoured by having my work included in the collection of the Bulgarian National Gallery

In 1990, I came to Canada with my husband Luben Boykov and our infant daughter, Ana. As fate would have it we landed in Newfoundland, the Eastern most province of Canada. During the first years in Canada, the delicate threads connecting the roots of my past with my new homeland were sometimes broken. It took a long time before I could fuse the song of the one with the distant thunder of the other. This fusion gives me the sense of harmony and balance that I need to express through painting.

The technique of Monotype was, for me, a fortunate discovery. I am charmed by it, because it allows me to express spontaneously and intuitively my visions. When I am painting I hold my breathe, my body vibrates and time disappears. All the time becomes one moment which I try to capture by becoming one with the it. Sometimes I am made of pain, I see myself crying over the human drama, other times, harmony, hope and faith fill my heart. These states make me paint, vibrate and sense of life to the fullest.