

Persian Angels

This collection of Persian and Turkish angels began in 1997, when I saw a tiny angel in the upper left corner of a Persian miniature. It was the angel Soroush. Because I had not painted since college and was completely intimidated by the prospect of painting this tiny figure, I chose to represent a number of these angels in colored pencil. This led to painting another set of them in acrylic paint (I did 14 in all). By this time I had traveled to the Middle East and North Africa four times, and I wanted to paint scenes from some of my travels, still with acrylics. When I got tired of painting only in the studio (aka my kitchen), I decided to go outside to paint, and that let me back to oils, which is what I painted with in college. Full circle.

One tiny little angel started it all...

My first one-person show consisted of all my angels and my paintings of the Middle East at Borders Books and Music about 1994. I did not sell a thing, but it was great experience.

The mixed media piece in the middle is an enlargement of one small section of artist Sultan Muhammad's illustration of *Worldly and Otherworldly Drunkenness*, in the Diwan of Hafiz. The couplet at the top reads, "The Angel of Mercy took the cup of reveling and tossed it down | As rosewater on the cheeks of houris and angels." The ENTIRE image is 8.5 x 5.75". This is just a tiny part at the top.