

# KHRYSTYNA KOZYUK

## A TRANSCENDENT PATH TO SEDONA

**Khrystyna Kozyuk** is a Ukrainian-born artist currently living and working in Sedona, Arizona. Her vibrant and dynamic artwork is characterized by bold colors, fluid textures, and abstract forms that evoke natural landscapes and organic shapes. Inspired by her travels and diverse cultural experiences, Khrystyna's pieces often draw from the beauty she finds in the world around her. She believes experience and living life to the fullest fuels the visions behind her works of art. Using a unique technique of layering diluted oil paints, she creates a sense of movement and depth on large canvases, inviting viewers into an immersive experience that blends abstraction with emotional resonance.

Born in Chortkiv, Ukraine, Khrystyna grew up surrounded by the stunning beauty of rivers, lakes, and mountains, which left a lasting impression on her creativity. Her artistic journey began at a young age, with a fascination for bright colors, notably, electric-green, and a deep connection to her family's artistic roots. Taught by her grandfather and encouraged by her mother, her art poured out from her and she painted murals on the family's kitchen walls. By age 11 she began selling her art to tourists visiting her city. Upon being awarded top prize for a children's international competition, Khrystyna had the chance to visit Wawel Royal Castle. It was here that she faced the huge canvases of Jan Matejko, ultimately inspiring her to continue her path to attending art school. At 16, Khrystyna moved to Lviv to pursue her Bachelor of Fine Arts from National Wood Technology University. She relished living in art capital of western Ukraine, adored its architecture, museums, and art school environment which never ceased to inspire her.

Upon graduating from University, Khrystyna moved to the United States in 2005. Like many immigrants, she started from nothing, learning English at a community college, and cleaning office buildings by night to support herself. By 2012 she was able to make painting her full-time practice. Since then, Khrystyna has been represented in exhibits around the world, with a major presence in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. She has been invited for solo museum exhibitions and participated in prestigious group shows such as the Paris Expo, New York Expo, Spectrum Miami, Luxembourg Art Fair, SOFA Chicago, as well as many other exhibitions. She also took part in the inaugural International Artist's Residence at Chateau d'Orquevaux in France. Here she evolved her work, creating a strong collection that is her signature design today. With over 400 original paintings displayed in collections worldwide, Khrystyna's colorful artwork continues to bring joy, beauty, and inspiration to diverse audiences.



From the rivers and mountains of western Ukraine to the red rock landscapes of Sedona, Arizona, artist Khrystyna Kozyuk has followed a creative path marked by resilience, reinvention, and deep connection to nature. Known for her bold use of color, fluid textures, and large-scale oil paintings, Kozyuk's work is both meditative and dynamic—an immersive reflection of her personal journey and global influences.

In this exclusive interview, she shares how her early artistic roots, immigrant experience, and spiritual growth continue to shape her evolving practice and presence in the international art world.



Khrystyna, you arrived in the U.S. in 2005, starting with little and working your way into becoming a full-time artist. How has the American landscape—both physically and culturally—influenced your evolution as a painter?

The first few years were challenging as I adjusted to a new country and had limited time for painting. However, in 2008, I resumed my artistic practice, and just a few months before the economic crisis, I was fortunate to sell several high-priced paintings. That early success gave me the motivation to keep going and the belief that I could make a living as an artist.

As a result, I began participating in more and more exhibitions, and eventually, I became a full-time artist.

Sedona is known for its spiritual energy and stunning natural beauty. How has living in this environment affected the emotional energy and movement in your recent work?

Sedona has definitely inspired and influenced my work, as well as my spiritual growth and personal development. This small, high-desert town has had a profound impact on me and those around me.

My color palette has shifted toward more earthy tones, reflecting the copper-red rocks and natural surroundings. I love hiking and feel truly blessed to have scenic trails just steps from my home. Meditation, creativity, imagination, and a slower pace of life are all essential parts of our lifestyle here in Sedona.

Your technique—layering diluted oil paints on oversized canvases—is both physical and meditative. Did this approach evolve in the U.S., or was it rooted in your earlier training in Ukraine?

I would say my style underwent a significant transformation during a one-month artist residency in France in the spring of 2018.

The studio environment was incredibly beautiful and offered the perfect setting for me to explore and refine my artistic voice. Since then, I've been working exclusively with oil paints.

What works best for me is silence and solitude, natural light, and complete freedom from outside distractions. It's in those meditative, present moments that my most meaningful creations come to life.



KHRYSTYNA KOZYUK  
'DREAM CATCHER'

Having exhibited in cities like Chicago, New York, and Miami, how would you describe the American art scene in comparison to what you experienced in Europe?

The American art scene is incredibly diverse and dynamic. It embraces new ideas and experimental approaches, with a strong emphasis on individuality. In my experience, collectors and audiences in the U.S. often value consistency in an artist's style and are drawn to personal narratives and the stories behind the work.

In contrast, the European art scene feels more deeply rooted in tradition and history, maintaining a strong dialogue with the past.

Many European artists strive for modernity and often push the boundaries of art—sometimes, in my opinion, pushing a bit too far. While their work may not always deliver a clear message, their bold experimentation is inspiring in its own way.

Both scenes offer unique and enriching experiences that continue to influence and inform my artistic journey.

You've mentioned drawing inspiration from global cultural traditions. How do you reconcile or blend your Ukrainian heritage with the multicultural influences you've encountered across the U.S.?

I'm deeply fascinated by Native American cultural traditions and beliefs, which resonate with me on a soul level. I've often felt a strong connection between these traditions and my own Ukrainian heritage—particularly the values and spiritual practices that existed before the arrival of Christianity. It's as if these cultures, though separated by continents, are gently reminding me of how much we share rather than how we differ. I'm truly grateful that life has offered me the opportunity to explore and experience such a rich spectrum of cultures. Each one adds depth and perspective to my artistic and personal journey.



ARTWORK BY  
KHRYSTYNA KOZYUK

In a country that values innovation and reinvention, how has the American mindset encouraged you to experiment, take risks, or redefine your artistic identity?

Although I may not be especially technical or social media savvy, I actively seek out new knowledge and skills as part of my personal growth. I often reinvent my artistic style and experiment with new tools and techniques in my work. Still, authenticity remains my top priority—I always strive to stay true to myself and my creative vision.

What does it mean to you to be nominated for the ART E\$TATE Awards in Malibu as Best Contemporary Painter?

It was a wonderful surprise! I only recently discovered the magazine, so I'm truly honored to be nominated in this category. As an artist based in Arizona, I'm actively seeking more representation in California. I love the contrast between the dry desert and the ocean—it feels like new doors are beginning to open for me in that direction.

You've created over 400 original works that live in private and public collections worldwide. What does it mean to you, personally, to know your art has found a home in so many corners of the world—especially starting from your small hometown in Ukraine?

I have private collectors who own anywhere from five to ten of my paintings in their homes. During my travels, I've had the privilege of seeing my work displayed on their walls. Honestly, I'm often amazed at how different the pieces feel after years have passed—they still surprise me. I sometimes find myself thinking, "Did I really create this?"

My early works in particular tend to catch me off guard. Back then, I didn't keep a clear record of every piece, so some left my studio without ever being photographed. Looking back, those unexpected rediscoveries are always a special moment. Now, I'm much more organized—each painting is properly photographed and documented.

I often build close connections with my collectors, and many have even invited me to visit their homes. It's a beautiful reminder that I've built a network around the world through my art, which feels truly amazing.

Much of your work evokes movement, nature, and emotion. In today's fast-paced, screen-heavy American culture, do you see your art as a kind of visual "slow-down"—an invitation to feel and reconnect?

Yes, absolutely. Over the years, many people have told me that they continue to discover new elements in my paintings, even after spending a lot of time with them. I intentionally leave space within my work for the viewer's imagination—to invite exploration, interpretation, and a personal connection.

It's incredibly rewarding when someone tells me that my art has sparked their own creativity or inspired them to see the world a little differently.

If you could leave one piece of advice or inspiration for young immigrant artists trying to find their voice in the U.S., what would it be?

I would encourage young artists to experiment fearlessly and dedicate countless hours to their studio practice—without overthinking, overanalyzing, or comparing themselves to others.

When you fully embrace your uniqueness, everything else tends to fall into place naturally.

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