**I am a Czech citizen and a US resident, born in the former Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic, where I earned a PhD in linguistics. I started my career in broadcasting and then switched to print journalism. Since the 1990s I have lived alternately in the United States and the Czech Republic. Along with my work for the media, I painted in my free time and participated in my first exhibition, held in Prague, about a decade ago. Currently one of my paintings is on exhibit at the Butler Institute of American Art. I’m also involved in pottery making and have had some of my pieces exhibited at a gallery in Chelsea, New York. I’m working toward spending most of my time focused on my art and becoming a full-time painter.**