

# off the wall gallery

paintings · sculpture · original prints



**SYLVIA ANGELI**  
American, b. 1945.

## About the Artist

Sylvia Angeli brings a highly skilled approach to her canvases, honed through her studies at Sam Houston State University, Rice University, and the prestigious Glassell School of Art in Houston. Her deep appreciation for European art, especially French traditions, led her to Les Illusions School in Les Cerqueux, France, where she studied under New York artist Ted Jacobs. This experience profoundly influenced her work, deepening her passion for the Old Masters and their techniques. Painting daily, often *en plein air*, and absorbing insights from fellow students and instructors, Angeli embraced the power of chiaroscuro, captivated by the mystery and spirituality it evokes in the works of the Old Masters—qualities she intentionally integrates into her art.

“I strive for sensuality in my work,” Angeli explains. “I paint with great passion and create a specific mood in my studio through music and atmosphere. I believe the energy I generate transfers to the canvas.” Her focus on large still lifes of fruits—berries, pears, pomegranates, lemons, and others, often appearing together on the same canvas—began by chance. “A friend brought a pear for lunch,” she recalls. “I was a bit bored, as artists can sometimes be, and the pear was so beautiful that rather than eating it, I painted it. And that was the beginning.”

Angeli has been captivated by this subject for over a decade and continuously explores its visual possibilities. Her palette evolves from canvas to canvas, creating works that she describes as “mysterious, provocative, luscious, earthy.” She perceives fruit as inherently sensual, rich with metaphors for both the feminine and masculine, and each variety carries symbolic significance. For her, lemons symbolize hope, pomegranates represent fertility, and pears embody womanhood.

Angeli's passion for travel profoundly shapes her art. Her frequent trips to Europe, especially Italy, where she immerses herself in the works of the Old Masters, inspire her creations. She also visits contemporary art galleries and museums, absorbing a diverse range of influences. "Travel is good for the soul," she reflects, "with its romance, cuisine, moods, and mysteries."

These elements converge on Angeli's canvases in a shimmering dance of thin oil glazes, seemingly illuminated from within. She builds depth and substance through a foundation of intentionally manipulated, plaster-like texture. The result is rich and luminous, bold and imaginative, subtle and mysterious—works that resonate on multiple levels.