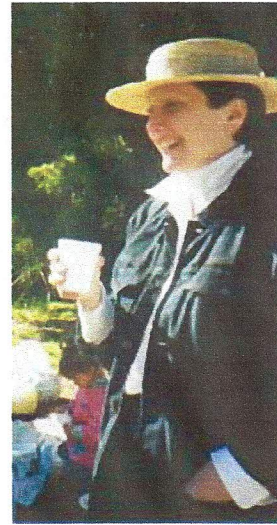


LOKSHINA ELENA

Elena Lokshina was born in 1955, on Sakhalin Island, in the Soviet Far East, and moved to Leningrad when she was eighteen years old. After studying piano for ten years she had to take a job at a military plant dealing with hazardous materials, since that was the only way for a girl from the provinces to get a permit to live in Leningrad. She worked as a lathe operator, locksmith, book-keeper, and a stoker. When she was 21 years old, Elena came under the influence of the philosophy of Rousseau and abandoned city for Siberia, where she lived alone in taiga and worked as a ranger.



According to the artist, she gradually turned into a dissident and came back to Leningrad to start a ten-year struggle for emigration. Elena started painting after the birth of her son, at 22 years old. She graduated from night school at the Leningrad Academy of Fine Arts.

The little people, sometimes sad and sometimes funny, came into her paintings in America, after her immigration in 1987. They help the artist express her nostalgia for her cruel motherland and the difficulties of adjustment in her adoptive country. They also serve as wonderful "storytellers" in her works on Jewish culture and history.

Elena Lokshina lives in San Francisco and works as an apartment manager. She's showed her paintings in a number of exhibitions, such as Florence Biennale, Bronx Museum, and Jewish Museum of San Francisco, made a cover illustration for a book "Shush! Growing Up Jewish Under Stalin", University of California press, by Emil Draitser, published 2007-08 and an article illustration for "The Scientist". She was awarded with residency at Red Cinder, Big Island of Hawaii.

Five years ago she began to write short stories about her tenants. She says: "my escape has come almost full circle: there is only a bit of water between California and Sakhalin".