## **ANGELO NATARAJ SAKA**

Growing up in a small town in Southern Albania, Angelo was far more at ease connecting with his natural environment, the trees, mountains and rivers, than he was with his formal schooling. In fact he was even less at ease with his early tutelage in the subject of Art.

As with many an Artist, he was inclined to adopting a confrontational stance with his elders in a bid for Freedom of expression.

His induction into Portrait studies began in earnest at the age of 14, drawing from a collection of old Photos of family & friends, in addition to parallel studies in Poetry.

At 23 he moved to Greece and began immersing himself in Oil Portraiture, at the time mainly as a means to provide an income. In 1996, he participated in a collective exhibition of Albanian Artists and from there on in, Painting commenced as a labour of passion rather than a mere means of subsistence. Painting took on a new and more profound importance as a trusted companion and a channel towards self healing.

By the mid 2000's, Angelo was literally exploring both internally and externally by the means of workshops, meditation and physical travel.

In recent years he has returned to painting Portraits with an even greater energy, passion and vigour having reached a natural junction wherein his experiences and human encounters are distilled in his Painting.

He now lives and works on the Island of Crete where he expresses his creativity in ways he cites as reflecting his own authenticity; playful, expressive, explorative and aspiring to the Divine.