

# From Russia with art

Capo Beach artist was featured at the last Art in Motif exhibit at the St. Regis.

By MARK GARCIA  
DANA POINT NEWS

The crystalline squares and palaces of St. Petersburg, Russia is what inspired a young Regina Berengolts to become an artist.

Now 44, Berengolts still carries that passion and love of art. The evidence is in her work, which was displayed Wednesday at the last Art in Motif exhibit at the St. Regis.

Berengolts received her art degree from the prestigious Serov Art Academy in St. Petersburg, and as a teenager, earned high recognition in numerous exhibitions, including at the St. Petersburg National Peoples Museum. Her work can be found in private collections around the world.

Her artistic interests in-

clude drawing, design, photography and sculpture, and her works are usually mixed media characterized by strong contrasting colors. Her career has taken her all over the country and Canada, but she now resides in Capistrano Beach with her husband, Alexander, and 5-year-old son Daniel.

**Q: When did you immigrate to the United States?**

**A:** In 1979. Growing up in Soviet Russia left little in the way of personal freedom. My parents and I left to escape oppression. We weren't permitted to take anything of value, so we were refugees. We moved to Atlanta, mainly because my parents were scared of New York.

**Q: You have a degree, but it's not in art is it?**

**A:** I earned a degree in industrial design from the Georgia



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**INTERNATIONAL ARTIST:** Russian artist Regina Berengolts, shown here at her home studio, was the last artist featured this year in the Art In Motif series at the St. Regis Resort.

Institute of Technology. I worked as an industrial designer and currently have eight patented designs for faucets. I've also helped design cars and furniture, and owned an advertising agency in San Diego.

**Q: Why industrial technology?**

**A:** I was encouraged by my parents not to be a starving artist, but art is my joy and passion. I've always made money from my art. I always

had something working artistically on the side.

**Q: What is your occupation?**

**A:** I'm an engineer for General Monitors, but I continue to paint and I also teach two times a week.

**Q: How do you like teaching?**

**A:** I never thought I would love teaching as much as I do. The success of my students brings me joy.

**Q: Is there a certain style to your work?**

**A:** I'm a little bit all over the spectrum. I'll paint something classical – like landscapes and people – and then something abstract. I think I'm still experimenting and searching. I like doing a whole bunch of stuff. It expands my mind. As I experience more, it reflects in my paintings and gives it an edge.

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