



"Roses in a Silver Vase," 32"x36" oil on canvas, by Mehrdad Samimi

Classic realism distinguishes art of Mehrdad Samimi

Mehrdad Samimi is a portraitist who began his training at age 12 under the expert tutelage of his father, Reza Samimi, whose subjects had included President Eisenhower, Princess Grace of Monaco and King Faisal. Mehrdad paid his way through architectural school at the University of Arizona painting portraits, and has gone on to become a success in architecture and art, not only in portraiture but landscapes, still life and familiar subjects, to which he brings the realism and drama of the Old Masters.

His commissions have included a portrait of Governor Pete Wilson, philanthropist Clarence J. Woodard of Orinda and Mayor Moon Landrieu of New Orleans.

In 1993 he won the Discovery Award Competition, judged by the curators of the Oakland Museum, Los Angeles County Museum and San Diego Museum of Fine Arts.



"Persian Cat on a Persian Rug," 20"x24", oil on canvas, by Mehrdad Samimi

His works are in galleries in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Vancouver, London, and in his own Samimi gallery in Orinda, where he has lived for the past 25 years.

Samimi Gallery, which also features the work of a dozen other artists, is directed by Mehrdad's wife Ellie. The gallery was established to provide a local showcase for the work of the many talented artists living in the Lafayette/Orinda area.