



Nightingale — Roses

...more works by
Laurie Blum

Laurie was given the honor by the Shiraz Institute of Cultural Affairs to be the first painter to exhibit her work at the Tomb Shrine of Hafez in Shiraz, Iran in 2004. From Iran, in 2005, the works traveled to India, South Carolina and New York City. The paintings have been exhibited during 2006 in Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Washington, DC. Upcoming exhibitions are planned in Saadabad (The Shah's Palace Art Museum) in Teheran, Iran and The Islamic Museum of Art in Istanbul, Turkey, Washington, DC and South Carolina. Laurie is currently illustrating her new book —“Language of the Birds – It is All the Mirror of God,” an original adaptation of Farid - ud Din Attar’s “*Conference of the Birds*.” Her work has been profiled in *NY Arts Magazine*, *Love Street Lampost*, the *Glow Magazine*, the *Sun News* and the Hafez Tomb exhibition was written up by a journalist in Shiraz, Iran.

Laurie’s work may be viewed at www.laurieblum.com



Conference of the Birds



Layla & Majnun — Majnun's Refuge



Layla & Majnun — Kaaba

**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
 ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
 TO THE
 UNITED NATIONS**

Presents: The Paintings of LAURIE BLUM

**SHIRAZ, THE CITY OF PARADISE:
 THE REAL DIALOGUE AMONG
 CIVILIZATIONS**

at the United Nations Secretariat Lobby – (near cafeteria)

JULY 12-27.2007

Reception July 24, 6-8pm



In Shiraz, Iran, in 2004, the members of The Shiraz Cultural Institute began a “dialogue” with artist Laurie Blum. Laurie’s uniquely beautiful, uniquely “Irani,” paintings prompted the start of that dialogue, which continues through the venue of this exhibit at the United Nations.

Among the idyllic settings she has captured on canvas are the “Garden of Paradise” (Bagh-e-Eram) and the revered “Hafez Tomb,” burial site in Shiraz, Iran, of the Perfect Master Hafez, one of the greatest poets in all of mysticism. Referring to these and her other “Irani” paintings, the Cultural Institute stated, “Laurie is from the West and we are from the East, but her paintings show the ‘Real Dialogue Among Civilizations.’ Artists might say, this line isn’t right or that line isn’t right, but Laurie paints with Feeling and that is something new.”

In 2005, the Former Cultural Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Mehdi Faridzadeh, saw her works of Shiraz and said, “You are unique! No one has ever gone into Iran and painted it and brought it back to show the world! I want to support you. Your work should be in the United Nations!” When Laurie mentioned that The Shiraz Cultural Institute had told her that her paintings showed the ‘Real Dialogue between Civilizations,’ Mr. Faridzadeh announced that he had written the book, “The Real Dialogue Between Civilizations”! Upon learning of this astonishing coincidence, Laurie voiced this thought: “It is the Intellect of the Mind that separates people in the world with all speaking different languages, but the Language of the Heart is ONE TRUE LANGUAGE that silently passes from heart to heart. It is the language of LOVE that unites all and knows no separation.”

Laurie says that her art is about the beauty she finds in Nature wherever she goes. In Shiraz, while painting in the Garden of Paradise, she experienced its beauty in her heart, and these paintings are part of the expression of that experience. She had been searching for the beauty of this “outer garden” since she was a child; now she found her “Inner Garden” as she painted in the “Garden of Paradise” in Shiraz. As she gazed upon the Garden, her heart opened, and its beauty was reflected in the Mirror of her heart. It is from this “Mirror” that she

now paints, along with the ecstatic music of Iran that conjures up the colors that match the vibration of the light reflected in the Garden. This state of “Feeling and Seeing” produces the most special structure of light found in her paintings today. Laurie has waited for two years to share these paintings with you. Through Mr. Faridzadeh’s introduction to Dr. Bahrami of the Mission of Iran, this exhibit became possible, and she deeply appreciates the encouragement and assistance of these individuals.

The United Nations adopted the resolution in 1998 to proclaim 2001 as the year of “Dialogue Among Civilizations” to promote the discovery of commonalities between civilizations and cultures. When The Shiraz Cultural Institute gave Laurie a show of her paintings at the very site where they were created—the Tomb-Shrine of the great Master-Poet Hafez—none could then be aware that they were putting into action a UN resolution that respects Art as a Universal Language.

On the walls of the United Nations are the words of the Persian Poet, Philosopher and Spiritual Master, Saadi: “All men are part of one body; they share the same organs; there should be no war between them.” The transcendent art of painters, writers, and musicians is not owned by a particular race, creed or color; therefore all countries of the United Nations should respect the sacred art of each nation as Universal. Art is a channel to the Soul, which is boundless and free. It unites all through a Silent Language of the Heart. Laurie believes that all men have that heart, which is a mirror, and that the beauty that is reflected in that mirror touches the core of every heart, thereby uniting all hearts as One.

Laurie’s favorite lines of Saadi say, “You can pluck a rose and it stays fresh for seven days, but if you read one of my ghazels, the rose remains fresh with dew on it every time you read it.” Her wish is that you come with an open heart, ready to receive that which is being reflected in her paintings, and in the spirit of this exhibit. For herself, Laurie extends her heartfelt thanks to Ambassador Zariff, to Dr. H. Bahrami of the Mission of Iran, and to Ms. Joan W. McDonald and everyone else involved for their help in making this show possible.