

## Saulius Kruopis (Lithuania)

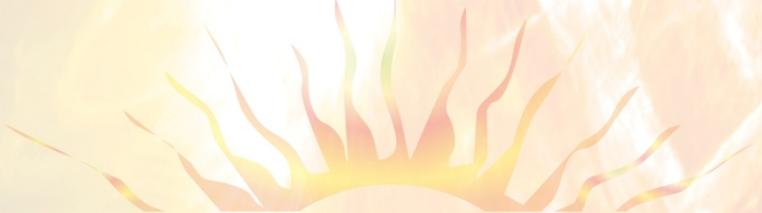
Painter Saulius Kruopis is a chairman of Nida Artists' Association BRIDGE. We established this Association in 1999.

I was born in 1960 on February 11 in Siauliai. The first incentive to become an artist was in childhood. I draw a lot and I always was surrounded by professional artists. In kindergarten when all children went to sleep in the afternoon, I and the artist Aloyzas TOLEIKIS went to his room to draw, do monotypes and prints. Those drawings were published in 1966 in Siauliai city newspaper, art critic and professor V. Rimkus helped to held three my exhibitions. I was only six years old. My mother saved all the newspapers of this time. She made sure that I can attend Siauliai children's art school .In 1971I passed the entrance exams and entered to study. The diploma work was oil paintings on canvas. Subject was Humans and horses. Eduardas Juchnevičius taught composition, painting- Raimondas Trusys, sculpture- Birute Kasperaviciene and art history A.Stalevičienė. In 1972 I entered to the Children's drawing competition in Panevezys. There, to my surprise, I won first place. It was the second stimulus to become an artist. In1975 I joined Kaunas Stepas Zukas College in Creative Photography specialty. I had two brilliant teachers, Maestro Povilas KARPAVIČIUS and Mindaugas Dapkus. Thanks to them in1996 year I had my first exhibition of artistic photography. This photographic exhibition poster I store so far. From then until 1980, every year I held photo exhibitions in the Kaunas Art College. Those exhibitions saw Romualdas Požerskis, Romualdas Rakauskas and Virginijus Sonta. I was in connection with them, as every Thursday I attended lectures - meetings in Kaunas Photo association. In 1977 I went to Georgia and Armenia. I took a lot of pictures. However, the visit to artists Martiros Sarjan Museum in Yerevan has been crucial, I gave the word to paint every day, or at least a cast of watercolor. Because of the influence of the colorful paintings again I returned to the painting. Since then, every year I take part in students exhibitions in Kaunas. Once painting artist Algimantas Švėgžda came to my show and very strongly encouraged, and I finally realized that I choose painting. In 1979 I organized another big photography exhibition about Leningrad, and in 1980 I finished my diploma work. Theme was "Artistic photography exhibition " and it was represented in Vilnius Exhibition Hall. I wanted to study, I painted full time. In 1981 I had my first solo painting exhibition in Kaunas. In group exhibitions I take part since 1979. I went to Vilnius and began to attend Vienožinskis art school. I studied with Marija Rozanskaite, Igoris Piekuras and Arvydas Saltenis, Alfonsas Andriuškevičius, Rima Bičiūnas also Vladimiras Karatajus, Jonas Daniliauskas, A. Kmieliauskas and A.Savickas. A unique friendship I share with artist's Vincas Kisarauskas family. In 1986 was my first painting exhibition in Vilnius "Ziburelis" book store and he wrote a review in the newspaper "Vakarines naujienos". At that time I worked as a painting restorer in P.Gudynas restoration center in Vilnius. Pictorial and technological secrets taught B.Pakstas. From 1987 to 1993 I studied painting at Vilnius Art Institute (now the Academy of Fine Arts).



My teachers were painters Jonas Daniliauskas, Valentinas Antanavičius, Arvydas Saltenis, professor Kestutis Zapkus( USA). In studies time and traveled a lot, I watched the original paintings in Moscow, Leningrad, Stuttgart, Cologne , Bonn , Munster , Kassel , Hamburg , Berlin, Hagen, Heidelberg, Lübeck , Kiel , Lodz, Poznan , Gdansk , Krakow , Warsaw, Copenhagen. In 1991 I and my friend held an exhibition in Bad Oldesloe towns hall ( near Hamburg ) in Germany and in 1991 in the Project Gallery in Copenhagen. In 1992 I won a scholarship and three months lived and I painted in Loburg Castle near Munster in Germany.

In 1993 I finished graduation work triptych "For Mother". In 1993 I got married with an artist and educator Skaidre Butnoriute and in the same year on November 4th was born the first son Eigirdas . Later were born another sons Karolis(1999), and Vilhelmas ( 2006). After I finished the Art Institute (Academy) began to work as a freelance artist. In 1994 I hold two big exhibitions, one Nemencine with collector Richard Jakutis and other in Lithuanian "Aidas" gallery. In 1995 I began my famous international Nida Plain Air, which continues till now, already I organized 17 international plain airs.



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