

Dutch born, Vera von Benckendorff-Smith grew up in the Netherlands and France. From the time she was little, she went with her Russian father to many of the great museums of the Netherlands and France. As drawing was her favorite means of expression, she had art lessons starting at a young age from Elly Kuipers in Holland and Germain Bonel in France. In the US, she took master classes from British artist Edward Povey (2012 - 2014).

Outside of art, she studied Russian in the Netherlands. Her marriage brought her to the US, where she was introduced to military life and home schooled her children. As soon as her children became independent, Vera returned to her art. It was to help the animals at SARA Sanctuary that she started exhibiting her watercolors. Starting in 2007, she has more and more dedicated her life to her art.

In the US, Vera thoroughly enjoys the National and State Parks and Native American arts and crafts. What she loves about San Antonio are the diverse cultural communities, the missions and other historic buildings.

Living in the San Antonio area, she paints in oils and watercolors mostly. Her favorite subjects are landscapes, animals, old houses and churches, Native American rock art, icons and portraits.

Visit her website at [www.verasart.com](http://www.verasart.com) and her blog for more information and for the oil portraits: <http://verasart.blogspot.com>

For portrait and pet portrait commissions, contact Vera on her website.