

## Virginia Filip

I was born in Chile in 1952 and there lived in a village near Santiago, Peñaflor, until I was 17 years old. I remember being a very shy and scared little girl and from a very young age I felt very attracted to painting. Drawing and coloring were my refuge, the way I could dream and escape from a world in which I did not fit in. My family moved to live in Mexico in 1970 because my dad was transferred to this country by his work. Because of my conservative education, studying to be an artist was something unthinkable for me, so I studied to be a biologist at the University of Mexico. I had always liked nature, animals, plants, insects and I loved to learn more about nature. I continued studying the MS and Ph.D. in Ecology at the same university and worked as a teacher for several years. I participated in a scientific research at the University of Mexico biological center in the town of Chamela in Jalisco being a scholarship holder of Dr. Jose Sarukhan

## Painting

In 1986, at age of 34 and after 17 years in the university, I realized that the scientific occupation absorbed 100% of my time and that I wanted to do many other things in my life. So one day, without much thinking, I quit my career and my job and moved to Cuernavaca to dedicate myself to what always had attracted me: painting. My training as an artist was basically autodidact but I took several workshops in nude figure drawing, painting and sculpture in D.F Mexico, Cuernavaca and San Miguel de Allende. Among the teachers who helped me to develop my art and creativity in Cuernavaca were the sculptors Lourdes Alvarez and Victor Hugo Nuñez. In India I met Meera, a Japanese teacher, disciple of Osho, with whom I took some workshops to paint in a more spontaneous way and to free my creativity.

I lived in Cuernavaca for 8 years and during that time I actively participated with the community of artists. Then I changed my residence to Oaxaca, where I live since 1995. In Oaxaca, I found huge inspiration for my artistic work. Its people, its traditions, colorful costumes, landscapes and light, constantly inspires and enriches me. I have participated in many group exhibitions and have exhibited my paintings in more than 20 solo exhibitions in different cities in Mexico, in Norway and Chile.