



**Sunshine for Ukraine**  
914x1829cm (36x72in)  
Acrylic on canvas

## Olena Vigovska

Olena Vigovska was born in Kharkiv a city in the east of Ukraine. Art was always her passion, she particularly loved painting scenes of nature and fantastical worlds. Her love for art never faded as she grew up and began studying visual art and painting in college and university. Later, she decided to study design at Kharkiv State Academy of Design as she was passionate about inventing objects of beauty for everyday life.

The classical painting school helped her to find a job in the film industry which was immensely interesting and exciting. Working on various projects in Europe, she ended up in Australia in 1996 and has been living there ever since.

Throughout her journey she has never stopped painting, she took part in various exhibitions in Ukraine and in the Australian Easter Show exhibition. Her most recent exhibition was at The New Artisans Gallery at Milsons point, Sydney.

She is particularly captivated by the beautiful flora and fauna of Australia, however, sometimes she reminisces about her life in Ukraine.

A sunflower is a very interesting plant as it characteristically turns its “head” towards the sun. “I find this intention to turn to the light symbolic as the Ukrainian people look towards good and hope, and freedom” she said. The city of Kharkiv was always surrounded by huge fields of sunflowers. When you drive through those fields you see only yellow sunflowers that stretch to the horizon with the blue sky overhead. Her painting is called: “Sunshine for Ukraine”; blue and yellow are the colours of the Ukrainian flag which are everywhere in Ukraine. They are the colours of peace, prosperity, and happiness.

As an ode to her former home, she has the feeling and desire to paint sunflowers. Olena’s painting is a reminder that Ukraine is not only a country at war but a country with 5 thousand years of agricultural traditions.