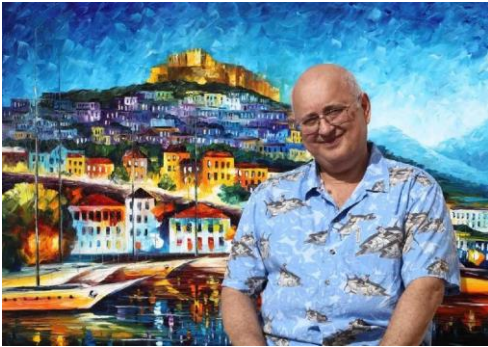




# LEONID AFREMOV



## EARLY LIFE

Leonid Afremov was born on July 12th 1955 in Vitebsk, Belarus (then former USSR). His father was a shoe designer and shoe maker, his mother was a worker in a metal factory. Leonid was raised in a traditional Jewish home. His parents and grandparents spoke Yiddish at home. Leonid was a good student in school; he received good grades and has always been very interested in history and art. He attended all the possible art classes offered in school and took private lessons from local artists. Leonid's parents noticed his talent for painting at an early age and encouraged him to develop the talent.

## CAREER

Leonid was building up his experience by painting a lot with oil and participating in various exhibitions; although, he wasn't allowed to paint for the Russian galleries because he was discriminated against for being Jewish. He moved to Israel in 1990, and then to America twelve years later in 2002. Afremov found it difficult to find creativity in America and noticed that only certain pieces of work were popular. In 2004, he was introduced to eBay by a friend. He researched the site and saw other artists selling their work. He tried to sell a couple of paintings by auction and immediately received magnificent success. Paintings were sold for hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars and everything sold without exception. For the first time, Afremov was given an opportunity to paint what he really wanted. He was able to forget the pressure of making a sale and explore himself as an artist. At this point the real artistic journey began. Afremov finally began painting what he really wanted from his personal inspirations and he was able to explore his artistic vision and abilities all the way. The exposure on eBay gave him opportunities for commission orders and access to different galleries. However, because of negative experiences with galleries, Leonid preferred to sell directly to the collectors. He died in his favourite holiday destination, Mexico on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.

## ARTISTIC STYLE

His unmistakable work included a wider range of vibrant colours which added to the energy and excitement of his work. He was inspired by artists Chagall and Modigliani. His paintings often reflected personal memories and emotions. Leonid would build up layers of paint, creating thick marks of colour using a palette knife and oil paint. This would take a long time to dry, but offered smooth blends and deep, vivid colours. Afremov's work used the impressionist style where a range of brush marks are used to represent objects quickly, rather than make them look entirely accurate.





FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EM4IUyFdN0>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOCN4jweD1AETi9KhIK3-5Q>

---

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What language did his parents speak at home?
2. Why wasn't Leonid allowed to paint for Russian galleries?
3. What did a friend introduce him to in 2004?
4. Where did he die?
5. Who was he inspired by?