

# ***Very Rev Igumen Silouan Justiniano***

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## **Born**

- 1973 San Germán, Puerto Rico  
Lives in the Monastery of Saint Dionysios the Areopagite (ROCOR), Saint James, NY

## **Education**

- 1999 MFA, Hunter College, NYC  
1995 BFA, School of Visual Arts, NYC

## **Ordination & Tonsure**

- 2019 Elevated to Igumen by Metropolitan Hilarion (ROCOR), Monastery of Saint Dionysios the Areopagite, Long Island, NY  
2009 Stavrophore Vows, Monastery of Saint Mary of Egypt, NYC  
2006 Ordained Priest by Bishop Mercurius of Zarsk (MP), Saint Nicholas Cathedral, NYC  
2003 Ordained Deacon by Bishop Mercurius of Zarsk (MP), Saint Nicholas Cathedral, NYC  
2002 Tonsured Rassaphore, Monastery of Saint Mary of Egypt, NYC  
2001 Clothed Novice, Monastery of Saint Mary of Egypt, NYC

## **Grants & Awards**

- 2021 Award of Excellence in Iconography, *Orthodox Arts Festival*  
2020 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Sacred Art Competition, *Catholic Arts Institute*  
1998 MFA Grant, *Joan Mitchell Foundation*  
1995 Rhodes Family Award, *School of Visual Arts*  
1991 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Painting, *Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art*, Ridgefield, CT

## **Commissions: A Selection**

- 2021 Portrait of Tsar Nicholas II for Archbishop Kirill, Ruling Bishop of the Diocese of San Francisco and Western America (ROCOR), San Francisco, CA  
2019 Four Evangelists for the Holy Doors of Holy Archangel Michael Chapel, Parkland, FL  
2016 Icon of Saint Mary of Egypt & Saint Zosimas, Holy Ascension Orthodox Church (OCA), Charleston, SC  
2013 Icon of Saint Herman of Alaska for Saint Mary's Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Church (OCA), Stamford, CT  
2012 Icons for the Iconostasis of Saint Innocent Retreat Chapel (ROCOR), Franklyn, NY

- 2008 Icon of Ven. Bede for Archbishop Kirill, Ruling Bishop of the Diocese of San Francisco and Western America (ROCOR), San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Icon of Saint Martin of Tours for the Chapel of Saint Martin of Tours, West Point Military Academy (OCA), West Point, NY
- 2006 Icon of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos for Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church (OCA), Whitestone, NY
- 2004 Golgotha commissioned by Bishop Mercury of Zaraisk, Vicar Bishop of His Holiness Alexis II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, for Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral (MP), NYC
- 1998 Plashchanitsa (Epitaphios), Monastery of Saint Mary of Egypt, NYC

### Exhibitions: Group & Solo

- 2021 “Online International Iconography Exhibition,” Orthodox Arts Festival, [orthodoxartsfestival.org](http://orthodoxartsfestival.org)
- 2013 “En Búsqueda de la Imagen Sagrada,” Museo de Arte y Casa de Estudio Alfredo Ramirez de Arellano y Rosell, San Germán, PR
- 2005 “MFA Grant Recipient Exhibition,” curated by Gregory Amenoff and Jeremy Adams, Cue Art Foundation, New York, NY
- 1999 Christine Rose Gallery, New York, NY
- 1998 “MFA Thesis Exhibition,” Hunter College Gallery, New York, NY
- 1997 “Visual Arguments,” curated by Gabrielle Evertz, Fordham University Gallery, New York, NY
- 1996 “Inland Exhibition XXXII,” San Bernardino County Museum, San Bernardino, CA
- 1993 Casa Julia de Burgos, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 1993 “A Wealth of Grays,” Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan, CT

### Texts

- 2019 Cornelia Tsakiridou text, “Modalities of Contemplation in the Orthodox Icon,” presented at the symposium *Contemplative Traditions, Theory and Practice*, *Sankt Ignatius College: Stockholm School of Theology*, December 12-15, in Sigtuna, Sweden.
- 2017 Bradley Anderson text, “Portrait of the Artist as Iconographer: Searching for Meaning in the Postmodern Wasteland,” *The American Conservative*, November/December
- 2015 Andrew Gould text, “‘Living Tradition Symposium’ in Charleston, SC,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, May 28
- 2014 Jonathan Pageau text, “An Icon of Saint John of Kronstadt by Fr. Silouan Justiniano,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, June 19
- 2013 Jonathan Pageau text, “Fr. Silouan Justiniano – Returning to Puerto Rico With Icons,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, November 28
- 2013 Maria Cotto text, “Exhiben Arte Iconográfico Ortodoxo en San Germán,” *Periódico Visión*, Nov. 20
- 2013 Tikhon Pino text, “An Intimation of the Sacred: The Iconography of Hieromonk Silouan,” *Road to Emmaus*, Vol. XIV, No. 3 (#54)

- 2013 Mother Nectaria McLees interview, “Beauty as a Double-Edged Sword: Icons Authenticity and Reproductions, An Interview with Hieromonk Silouan,” *Road to Emmaus*, Vol. XIV, No. 3 (#54)
- 2013 Fr. Patrick O’Rourke text, “Artist Profile: Fr. Silouan Justiniano, Iconographer,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, February 18

### Articles Written by Fr. Silouan

- “On Manners and Mannerisms: Thoughts on Style...Part I,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, May 10, 2023.
- “Towards Luminosity and Transparency: On the Painting of George Kordis,” *George Kordis –Light From Light: Icons 2002-2022*, Alexander Press, 2022
- “Iconological Paragraphs,” *Analogia: The Pemptousia Journal for Theological Studies*, Vol. 16, 2022
- “The Autonomy of the Icon: Converging Aesthetics in Early Modernism,” *Živopis: Journal of the Academy of the Serbian Orthodox Church on Art and Conservation*, Vol. 9 (2020), 70-127
- “The Icon Painting of Fr. Stamatis Skliris: A Call for Authenticity,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Apr. 21, 2020
- “Preparatory Drawings as Temporary Icons: An Alternative Solution,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Oct. 23, 2019
- “Brilliant Darkness: On Saint Dionysios the Areopagite’s Blue Halo,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Apr. 13, 2019
- “Imagination, Expression, Icon: Reclaiming the Internal Prototype,” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*, Volume 39, Summer 2017
- “A Double Standard? Some Clarifications on Icon Painting Theory,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, July 26, 2017
- “Notes on Method,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, June 30, 2017
- “The Threshold: Reflections on Gallery Art and the Sacred,” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*, Volume 38, Winter 2016
- “The Degraded Iconicity of the Icon: The Icon’s Materiality and Mechanical Reproduction” (Revised), *IKON: Journal of Iconographic Studies*, Vol. 9, 2016
- “A New Icon of Saint Mary of Egypt & Saint Zosimas: Notes on Form and Symbolism,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Apr. 14, 2016
- “The Pictorial Metaphysics of the Icon: Abstraction vs. Naturalism Reconsidered,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Dec. 29, 2015
- “The Ever-Renewing Reality,” in catalog of the exhibition, *The Living Tradition of Icon Painting: Philip Davidov & Olga Shalamova*, Virginia Theological Seminary, Fall 2015
- “On Visionary Art: A Traditional Critique,” *Sacred Wed: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*, Vol. 35, Summer 2015

“On the Gift of Art,” *Gifts Almanac* (Russian), Mar. 23, 2015 “Aesthetics of Deification & Postmodern Deceptions: Reflections on Monasticism, the Icon & Beauty,” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*, Vol. 34, Winter 2014

“On the Gift of Art... But, What Art?: Secular and Sacred Art in Light of Tradition,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, May 14, 2014

“On Noetic Vision and Sacred Art: A Letter,” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*, Vol. 32, Winter 2013

“Archetype and Symbol: Thoughts on the Creative Act,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Mar. 12, 2013 “On the Relative Autonomy of the Icon: Converging Aesthetics in Early Modernism,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Dec. 13, 2013

“In Search for the Sacred Image,” *Luvah: Journal of the Creative Imagination*, Vol. 5, 2013

“The Degraded Iconicity of the Icon: The Icon's Materiality and Mechanical Reproduction,” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity*, Vol. 31, Summer 2013

## Reviews

“Aidan Hart, *Festal Icons: History and Meaning* (Gracewing Publishing, 2022),” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, August 14, 2022

“Institute of Sacred Arts hosts academic round-table on ‘Tradition and Innovation in the Sacred Arts of the Orthodox Church’,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, March 23, 2022

“Introducing the Orthodox Arts Festival,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, June 25, 2021

“Introducing the Institute of Sacred Arts at Saint Vladimir’s Seminary,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Mar. 17, 2020

“The Drawings of Elena Murariu,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Dec. 20, 2017

“The Sacred Arts Initiative ‘Rethinking Sacred Arts’,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Nov. 30, 2016

“As Through a Child’s Inner Eye: The Contemporary Icons of Maxim Sheshukov,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, Oct. 4, 2016

“Beauty – Spirit – Matter: Icons in the Modern World, by Aidan Hart,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, July 14, 2014

## Interviews for OAJ

“Icon Painting as Participation: Interview With Cornelia Tsakiridou...Part II,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, April 1, 2023

“Icon Painting as Participation: Interview With Cornelia Tsakiridou...Part I,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, March 25, 2023

“Every Human Being is a Creator: An Interview with Davor Džalto,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*,

July 28, 2021

“Towards a Great Pictorial Synthesis: Interview with Ioan Popa,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, April 16, 2018

“Contemporary Byzantine Painting: An Interview with Fikos,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, August 30, 2016

“A Matter of ‘Ethos’: An Interview with the Painter Markos Kampanis,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, May 12, 2016

“The Art of Icon Painting in a Postmodern World: Interview with George Kordis,” *Orthodox Arts Journal*, June 25, 2014

### **Invited Talks & Presentations**

Oct 22, 2022 “Visualizing the Sacred: Development of Work and Aspects of Process,” *School of Visual Arts*, New York, NY

Oct 19, 2022 “Formative Work to the Present: The Imaginal Context and Process,” *Jonathan’s Creatives/The New Inklings*, Online conference

Jul 20, 2022 “Aesthetics of Deification,” *First Things Foundation Summit*, Havana, ND

Apr 9, 2019 “Between Tradition and Modernity: The Icon Today,” Diplomat in Residence Program, *La Salle University*, Philadelphia, PA

Feb, 2017 “Theology and Artistic Aspects of the Icon,” Humanities 10 Class, *The Stony Brook School*, Stony Brook, NY

Oct 27, 2016 “Icon Painting,” Studio Art Class, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Oct 28, 2016 “Icon Painting,” Intro to Art Class, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Aug, 2016 “The Orthodox Icon,” *Misión Ortodoxa San Juan Clímaco*, San German, PR

Feb, 2016 “Theology and Artistic Aspects of the Icon,” Humanities 10 Class, *The Stony Brook School*, Stony Brook, NY

June 13, 2015 “The Degraded Iconicity of the Icon: The Icon’s Materiality and Mechanical Reproduction,” 9th International Conference of Iconographic Studies, Museum of Russian Icons, Clinton, MA

Feb, 2015 “Theology and Artistic Aspects of the Icon,” The Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, NY

May 23, 2015 “Imagination, Expression, Icon: Reclaiming the Internal Prototype,” Living Tradition: Painting Sacred Icons in the 21st Century, *Orthodox Arts Journal Symposium*, *Holy Ascension Orthodox Church*, Charleston, SC

Oct 30, 2014 “The Mystery of Divine Embodiment: From Abstraction to the Icon,” Diplomat in Residence Program, *La Salle University*, Philadelphia, PA

Nov, 2013 "In Search of the Sacred Image," *Inter American University of Puerto Rico*, San Germán, PR

### Discussions & Interviews

- April 4, 2023 "A talk with Igumen Silouan (Justiniano). Part II," *Orthodox Christianity*, [orthochristian.com](http://orthochristian.com)
- April 3, 2023 "A talk with Igumen Silouan (Justiniano). Part I," *Orthodox Christianity*, [orthochristian.com](http://orthochristian.com)
- Oct 13, 2022 "The Purpose of Iconography in Our Time," *Orthodox Arts Festival*, [orthodoxartsfestival.org](http://orthodoxartsfestival.org)
- Jul 12, 2022 "Fr. Peter Heers & Fr. Silouan Justiniano - Perennialism Pt. 2," Why Are We Talking About Rabbits (WATAR), *First Things Foundation Podcast*, [first-things.org/podcast](http://first-things.org/podcast)
- Jul 7, 2022 "Fr. Peter Heers & Fr. Silouan Justiniano - Perennialism Pt. 1," Why Are We Talking About Rabbits (WATAR), *First Things Foundation Podcast*, [first-things.org/podcast](http://first-things.org/podcast)
- May 3, 2022 "The Blue Halo of St. Dionysius: A Discussion with Iconographer Hieromonk Silouan Justiniano," *Dionysius Circle*, [dionysiuscircle.org](http://dionysiuscircle.org)
- Mar 17, 2022 "Tradition and Innovation in the Arts of the Orthodox Church," guest round-table attendee, Institute of Sacred Arts, *St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary*, Yonkers, NY
- Feb 23, 2022 "Icons and Contemporary Art," *The Symbolic World (Jonathan Pageau)*, [thesymbolicworld.com](http://thesymbolicworld.com)
- Aug 17, 2021 "Icons in the History of Western Civilization," video interview for Humanities 10 Course, *Gravitas: A Global Extension of Stony Brook School*, [sbs.org/gravitas-global-extension](http://sbs.org/gravitas-global-extension)
- May 25, 2021 "The Artistic and Spiritual Impact of the Pandemic," *Why Are We Talking About Rabbits (WATAR)*, *First Things Foundation Podcast*, [first-things.org/podcast](http://first-things.org/podcast)
- Jan 28, 2021 "Featured Guest, Sacred Art Prize 2020 Winner," *Catholic Art Institute*, [catholicartinstitute.org](http://catholicartinstitute.org)
- Sep 15, 2020 "Interview with Fr. Silouan Justiniano," Why Are We Talking About Rabbits (WATAR), *First Things Foundation Podcast*, [first-things.org/podcast](http://first-things.org/podcast)
- Oct 19, 2017 "Theology and the Human Act of Making," Panelist with moderator Phillip Donnelly, Institute for the Studies of Religion (ISR), Office of Spiritual Life and Great Texts, *Baylor University*, Waco, TX
- Oct 25, 2016 "Icons and the Way of Beauty," Panelist with moderator Natalie Carnes, *Baylor University*, Waco, TX

## Teaching

- 2022 External Tutor, HDK-Valand–Academy of Art and Design, University of Gothenburg, *MFA Thesis in Applied Art, Specialization in Metal Art*. Student: Daniel Strandow, Thesis title: “Iron to Icon: Forging the Sacred from Fragments of Tradition and Technology.”
- 2014 Icon Painting Workshop, Saint Nicholas Monastery, North Fort Myers, FL  
*One-week Session for Beginners*
- 1998 Teaching Assistant, Department of Art and Art History, Hunter College  
*Painting* (Doug Ohlson)

## Other

- 2023- Advisory Board & Jury Panel, Orthodox Arts Festival, [orthodoxartsfestival.org](http://orthodoxartsfestival.org)
- 2022- Advisory Board, *First Things Foundation*, [first-things.org](http://first-things.org)
- 2015- Editor, *Orthodox Arts Journal*, [orthodoxartsjournal.org](http://orthodoxartsjournal.org)