

John and Elli Milan: A Creative Love Story

John and Elli Milan met in Hawaii while Elli was still in high school and John was biding his time at the gorgeous local beaches. Deciding early to make a career as artists, they enrolled together at Savannah College of Art and Design and later transferred to the University of Georgia where they each received a BFA in painting. It was in this small but vital city that the couple developed their personal styles and began showing work in local galleries. After graduation, the pair worked independently, but a dream of making art together had been sparked.

Today the Milans create “joint-paintings,” producing one-of-a-kind compilation pieces shaped by both of their hands. Although each accomplished artists in their own right, by artistically collaborating their unique styles, a new development was exposed that neither had been able to reach on their own. The couple says that the Spirit of God inspires their work and allows them to create together and maintain a unified vision, the end result being aggressive and spontaneous layers of paint, which create a bright and playful scenario interwoven with hints of narrative.

John and Elli have traveled extensively in Greece and glimpses from these trips are reflected in their work. A fascination with contemporary buildings, built around old ruins and visible layers of history have become a metaphor for the way the Milans see spiritual transformation in themselves and those around them. They currently hold temporary studios in the beautiful coastal cities of Kavalla and Thessaloniki, which provide inspiration for their mixed-media oil paintings, but a permanent studio in Greece is in the cards.

John, Elli, and their four children live in Queen Creek, Arizona, keeping their prolific home studio open to the public year round. The couple's artwork is internationally collected and shown throughout galleries across Canada, Europe, and the United States, as well as in the Philippines and Dubai.