**Curriculum vitae**

**ALUSH SHIMA**

* 1949 Encouraged by his father to take up painting.
* 1960 Finishes School of Fine Arts in Tirana.
* 1965 Graduates from the Tirana Art Academy but is uninspired by the official art movement of Socialist Realism.
* 1966 Becomes a set painter for the Albanian Film Studio and nourishes a passion for bright colors and simple forms.
* 1973 Burns over 150 works (*considered "decadent"*) after secret police arrest his closest friend, artist Ali Oseku.
* 1974 For the next fifteen years, Shima is forced to paint in secret. Painting on cardboard, wood and even stretched sugar sacks, he hides his vibrant still lifes and landscapes in the attic.
* 1990 Democratic changes allow Shima to open his first exhibitions in Albania and Greece. He is viewed by many as a hero.
* 1992 Sell-out exhibition at the Roy Miles Gallery in London; Art critic Daniel Farson of the Daily Mail calls Shima "*a superb Colourist. . . who had endured. . .a persecution we cannot imagine*".
* 1993 Spring- Group exhibition; Palm Beach, Florida. / Summer- Personal exhibition; Saanenmoser, Switzerland. / Winter- Personal exhibition; Gstaad, Switzerland.
* 1994 Shima is appointed Director of Albania's National Art Museum. / Summer- Sell-out exhibition, Greece. / December-Personal exhibition; Gstaad, Switzerland.
* 1995 Former US President George Bush visits Shima at his studio and calls him a "*great artist*". / Spring- Artist wins awards at Malta Biennial Art Festival. / Summer- Group exhibition; Soho, New York.;
* 1996 February- Personal exhibition; Gstaad, Switzerland. / June- Shima is elected to the Albanian parliament. / Summer- Group exhibition; Chicago, Illinois.
* 1997 February- Shima resigns from the parliament to focus solely on his painting. / December- Personal exhibition; "*Triumph of Color*" -Gstaad, Switzerland.
* 1998 Fall- Personal exhibition; Chicago, Illinois. / Winter- Personal exhibition, New Jersey.
* 1999 Nominated *MAN OF THE YEAR* by American Biographical Institute. / August- Personal exhibition; Chicago, Illinois.