

with a pencil sketch, masking key highlights with fluid or tape before applying his signature blend of wet-on-wet backgrounds and dry-brushed foregrounds.

This deliberate yet fluid process echoes his broader philosophy: that the act of painting should be a daily joy, not just a professional obligation. "My priority is to enjoy the process every day," he says. He aims for one or two exhibitions annually, not merely for visibility but to challenge watercolor's place within the hierarchy of fine art. "One of my main goals is to make sure watercolor is recognized as equal to oil and acrylic in major galleries."

His upcoming solo show, *Translucence, Reflections and Light*, at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in February 2026, underscores this ambition. He will have a smaller exhibit at Arts for ACT in December. Meanwhile, his work remains on display at Tower Gallery on Sanibel and features prominently in Florida's art fair circuit, including events in Naples and Winter Park.

"Shah is an amazing artist and human being," says *Happenings Magazine* editor Jamie Kuser. "I especially love his automobile paintings, as he takes a portion of a classic and stylish automobile and gives it more life and vibrancy."

For Hadjebi, life in Florida—shared with his wife, three dogs, and a cat—is as vivid and unpredictable as the medium he has mastered. "Never a dull moment," he laughs. "It's been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life."

He ends with a gentle plea, one that speaks as much to his philosophy as to his practice: "Support local artists and craftsmen. Don't buy mass-produced art from a hardware store when a real story is hanging just around the corner."

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