



PJ FISHSTICK

MEMORY JUGS

Family members love us, and then they leave us. Left at their passing is an aching heart and evidence of a life lived: old keys, broken jewelry, extra buttons, souvenirs from long-ago travels, medicine bottles, hair clips, spare change from a dresser, Christmas ornaments, eyeglasses, perfume bottles and more. In grief these items conjure tears, longing and the the question: what to do with the tangible remains of a loved one?

Memory jugs honor loved ones. They recycle everyday items left by a loved one. They revive poignant memories. And they become art which tells life stories to those who follow.

The three jugs on display represent three of my family members who have passed on.

PJ tells family stories via Memory Jugs. Using the small treasures left by departed loved ones, she creates enduring art pieces by which future generations may glimpse their own pasts. PJ takes particular pleasure in repurposing the broken, the damaged and the tacky to create achingly intimate art remembrances. Her career was in elementary education. When not creating memory jugs PJ writes and decorates.



Frances Byrd

In our current political climate, a new vanguard of artists are beginning to raise their voices through works depicting previously unexpressed (at least openly) conservative political views. As an individual expression, political art is a powerful tool for political activism, and arguably crucial to fomenting political change. Propaganda techniques are indispensable. Whether or not you agree with the artist whose work you are viewing, you should be able to respect their right to free speech.

As artists, I believe we have a duty and responsibility to put forth opposing points of view to that of the establishment, whomever they may be. We need to combat lies and misrepresentations with verifiable facts and expose the treachery of blindly following ‘approved’ ideas and agendas. It is time that those of us who still hold the individual supreme stand up and make our voices heard. We now face a turning point in the history of America, where we can succumb to the whims of the State and willingly accept bondage, or lead the way to a Liberty Revolution with the purpose of restoring America to a Constitutional Republic. Mrs. Pelosi says “Are you serious?”; I say “Yes Ma’am, I Am”.

As Conservatives, what should we be promoting through our art? Self-reliance, personal responsibility, a return to the principles of individual liberty and limited government. Freedom over tyranny.

We must define our principles clearly, then promote them effectively and repeatedly in ways that are quickly and easily understood. We have the ability to make a lasting and significant impact in this war of ideas, if only we can find the nerve and the strength to oppose the status quo.

Art, regardless of genre, has the ability to reduce complex concepts to easily grasped ideas, raise people and ideas to the status of icons, and reach wide audiences through a variety of means. It is my goal, through my personal art, to promote the ideas of Liberty and individual integrity. I believe that America is a great country and patriotism should not be a stigma. There is nothing selfish in taking pride in one’s accomplishments. I hope that America will one day return to a truly free nation, because it has not been so in my lifetime. I want to leave it better than I found it. My art is my tool for shaping that future.

<http://www.machinepolitick.com/>



Margaret Cameron

Margaret Vinson Cameron is a Kentucky born artist who now lives in Cumming, GA. She began painting after retiring from newspaper, real estate, cosmetology, Kraft Foods, Western Apparel store display designer and TV commercials with the Morning Show, Nashville. Hearing about Baltimore, Md. Being well

known for their painted window screens in the 1930's Margaret tried her hand at painting a screened door. Acrylic is the medium used on screen wire and the fiberglass sculptures she has painted for two cities. Oil on canvas is used for portraits and landscapes. Her current memberships include Quinlan Visual Arts Center, The Georgia Art League, Dawson County Arts Council, and Sawnee Artists Association.



Fox Gradin

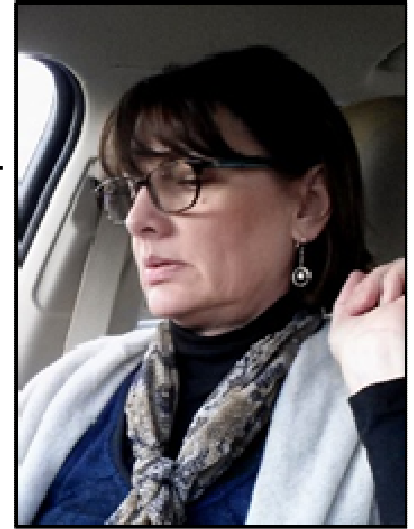
Fox Gradin is the owner of Celestial Studios, a photography/art studio in Gainesville, Georgia as well as being Summer Camp Director and instructor at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center. A mother of three, she is also a bellydancer, a photographer, an art teacher, an art festival director,

a parade coordinator, a professional clown, a board member, a painter, a cub scout leader, an entertainer, and a consultant. Fox's art and photography is solidly based in storytelling and fantasy and she enjoys blending her photography with unexpected materials. Fox published her first book in 2014 and continues to specialize in eclectic portraiture.

www.celestialphotography.com/

Pami M. Ciliax-Guthrie

I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Stephens College, Columbia, MO and continued my education at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. I am a self taught oil painter. My paintings are storybook folklore from my childhood and the interpretation of inspired glimpses of hope and heavenly joy.



In 1988 I moved to Sedona, AZ and enjoyed the magnificent beauty of Northern Arizona for 20 years. I owned and operated a graphic design business for ten years. In 1999 I began painting full time. I feel my pictures capture and translate what I feel an object, landscape or idea looks like rather than what I see. Participating with the essence of things that inspire me. I returned to Georgia in 2007. My compositions have lost their defined edges and stark minimalism of the Southwest desert. My perception is now captivated by the subtle detail, color and depth of the Southern landscape. The thick air holds the light unlike the desert where the light is defined by the shadow.

My paintings are in collections around the globe and in the homes of friends, families, celebrities, curators and pro athletes. I am pleased to be hanging with Rodin, Renoir, Degas and most recently included with folk artist's Finster, Miller & Tolliver.

www.artgratitude.com



Wayne Hewell

Wayne is a 5th generation potter. His father, Carl, and grandfather, Maryland (Bud) Hewell were traditional folk potters. Wayne had been making pottery for over 31 years. He continues a family tradition of making all

pottery by hand and firing it in an old-fashioned wood-

burning kiln. Wayne makes wonderful works of art at his

home in Lula and uses several glazes, including albany slip, tobacco spit and red and blue glazes.

Tex S. Crawford

"Life is all about the pursuit, the journey.
Why not make it a magical experience for
everyone to share?"

Tex Crawford's artistic process starts the second he begins rummaging through an abandoned barn or other treasure troves. His techniques arise from each new found medium and he transforms these reclaimed treasures into one of a kind visions of whimsical creatures, talisman and totems.



Tex tries with every creation to promote love, abundance and joy as well as reflecting as much positive energy through his art as he possibly can. He has been featured at the Lyndon House Gallery and Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Ga. And The Brick House Gallery in Oglethorpe County, Ga.

www.rootsupgallery.com

Artist Statement: "Art saved me, I just want to share it with the world."

Sam Granger

Sam Granger (SamG) is a self taught artist currently residing in Lula, GA. Working mainly with recycled materials, he creates paintings and assemblages based on his life, stories passed down through his family, and southern folklore. Mood determines his art and it's subject matter. When asked to describe his art, his normal reply is "I paint stuff that I feel like painting." His art covers a broad range of subjects and styles.



www.flickr.com/photos/samgfolkart



Mary Frances Hull

Mary Frances Hull is the resident artist at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center in Gainesville GA. She is experience taught and has developed her skill set by partnering with other commercial artists in the areas of stained glass, mosaic, painting and sculpting. Her art has taken her from the mountains of Appa-

lachia to the deserts of New Mexico, to the beaches of Pawleys Island, South Carolina and currently in the cozy hills of Georgia. She has multiple commercial projects installed throughout the United States.

Mary is a Certified Art Material Professional (CAMP tested) and has an art supply store Pen Dragon Fine Art Supply in Quinlan's Gift Shop.

First and for most, she considers herself a mosaicist working with glass and tile. Her specialties include restoration of antique frames and broken sculpture.

www.pendragonfineart.com

Mike Jones

A Georgia self-taught artist, Mike has been compulsively creating art since he was a child. For thirty years, he has been carving stone and wood while supporting himself with odd jobs. He has worked as a private investigator, tile-setter, carpenter, plumber, band instrument repairman, and musician.

Mike currently works at a tombstone company where he has learned to fine-tune his stone carving skills. In his spare time, he lets his imagination run wild, and a cast of characters emerge from the granite and sandstone. Pre-Columbian indigenous art inspires Mike, and that inspiration is evident in the primitive art feel of his carvings. If pressed to talk about his work, he says he creates forms for spirits to inhabit.

His stone figures make great garden sculptures.



www.mainstreetgallery.net/folk-or-self-taught-art/mike-jones/

Kurt Hewell

Kurt Hewell has been around a pottery shop off and on for the better part of 40 years. He is a 5th generation potter who was taught to turn by his father Henry H. Hewell. He also picked up a lot of tips and tricks from his uncles Carl Hewell and Jack Hewell. As a kid his father would take him to the pottery shop where he would help his dad make balls, rub bottoms and make room. During breaks and lunch he would practice turning. His first job was turning and would average a pay check of \$25.00 - \$30.00 a week, he always thought this was pretty good for a kid still in school.



Through the years he has mastered turning everything from quarts to 10 gallon strawberry jars in a production pottery. Most days he can be found at his small shop at home making traditional and folk art pottery, or out looking in the many antique shops and flea markets for a rare find of an unbroken churn or jug from years past.

Kurt believes that mixing his own glazes and perfecting them is just as much an art as turning the ware. He has developed a beautiful slip glaze along with other colors.

<http://hewellsfamilypottery.webs.com/>

Coralie & Mary Hardman

Coralie Hardman is a southern Self taught (Folk Artist) from North Georgia Who has been painting and selling her art sense she was a small child in the late 1990s.

Mary Hardman is a well known southern folk artist from north Georgia who started painting in 1995 as a living. her artwork is wide spread though out the south ranging from colorful farm scenes to her imaginative chicken snakes.

www.facebook.com/HardmanFolkArt

Joycelyn Hairston

As a member of one of Atlanta's founding families, Joycelyn Hairston continues the family commitment to community and creativity. She paints what she knows and loves...gifts of grace, warm traditions and sincere hospitality.... simple presentations on the complexities of life.



Joycelyn's passion for architectural art history, historic renovation and restoration, and the creative celebration of everyday life are apparent in her works. She is most known for her deeply respectful heritage scenes and has a growing client base desiring her large abstracts. The range of her subject matter is personal, inventive and often exhibits humor. Her works are available for viewing

on television, in museums, in public spaces and facilities, at institutions, thru private collectors, and in her working studio. Joycelyn's paintings exude a sense of pride and contentment. Many are created with colorful, unique brushwork.

Wherever she goes, her heart, eyes and mind are open to the ever abundant opportunities to capture special images in paint. She accepts private commissions, sells original oils and acrylics. Joycelyn's art brings her friends who share her passion for color, creativity, and life.

www.studiogallery30a.com/artists/joycelyn_hairston.htm

Peter Loose

Peter was born in Silver Spring, Maryland in 1963. His love of animals and nature led him to work as a naturalist for a Maryland state park and later for the Audubon Society. In 1986 he moved to Athens, Georgia to work at the Sandy Creek Nature Center. There he began creating whimsical sculptural musical instruments, birdhouses, and paintings. Peter lives on six acres with a menagerie of once-abandoned animals including dogs, a boa, python, and iguana. The intricate painted surfaces of his work are often highly informed by the patterns he observes in nature – the skin of a reptile or the feathers of a bird. Peter and his wife, Sandy, have published two children's books starring their rescue dog, Bongo. A ringing endorsement from his niece says it all, "He is (I think) just about the best artist of his kind. He paints all animals. He makes snake-shaped, guitar-like instruments, bunny bird feeders, and pictures of his dogs...Uncle Pete loves just about every animal there is."



<http://trade-arama.com/artists/peter-loose/>

C. Larry Wilson

C. Larry Wilson did not take up being a potter until after his retirement as a civil servant with Fulton County government. When he was a child he remembers that he always enjoyed playing in the mud. He is a native Georgian and a Navy Vietnam veteran. He has said he gets some of his inspiration from the artist Cornbread's guinea hens. He captures his subject matter as he creates each piece to just the perfect pose. He likes to put a smile on the face of his collectors, as his pottery makes people happy!

Eric Legge

Look on the back of any painting by Eric and you are likely to find his trademark angel faces staring serenely at you. He draws his inspiration from nature and his surroundings, often painting mountains, flowers, churches and smiling faces in a bright color palette.



Although born in Illinois, he grew up primarily in Valdosta, Georgia. In college he studied anthropology and worked at a center for mentally and physically handicapped people. He gained an appreciation for his own good fortune and views art as a gift for him to express that sentiment.

In a 2004 interview with Gary Carden of the Smoky Mountain News, Eric describes the genesis of his inspiration. “Well, it starts in the heart,” he says. “The mind perceives it and the hand gives it shape. I think of it as a trinity, you know - Heart, Mind and Hand.”

He enjoyed a close relationship with his father, Joe Legge, who was an accomplished wood carver. Father and son shared side by side studios while living in the rural mountain valley of Dillard, Georgia. Joe suffered a heart attack and died in January of 2009. In a nod to his father, Eric sometimes carves into the surface of his paintings that are done on salvaged wood or discarded cabinet doors.

During the Atlanta Olympics, Eric was one of just a few Georgia folk artists that were allowed to sell their artwork in the public venues. He has developed a following from there and his work can be found in galleries across the country.

www.jtfolkart.com/artist/eric-legge/

Bob McGill

I live in Nashville, TN on a bluff overlooking the Cumberland River, just a few miles east of the downtown area.

All of my paintings are created using a common safety razor. I have broken the blades into different lengths to allow more flexibility while I am painting. I try to use recycled materials where possible. Most of my pieces are painted on used or damaged cabinet doors.



The pieces that are not on reused cabinet doors are displayed in frames that are usually made from recycled wood taken from home remodeling projects. The imperfections in the used material sometimes shows through the painting. Most people think this adds to the piece, as I do. If the damage is significant, I will repair it but always make note of it on the back of the piece.

The reason I paint is quite simple. When I wake up I like to see things that make me smile.

Today's world is so full of stress. People rush around, never pausing and really looking at things. They seem to be so busy that they don't enjoy life. I paint with bright, bold, happy colors to make people take notice.

I also try to paint happy images, and give them titles to match the mood of the piece. There is nothing more satisfying then having someone look at one of my paintings and break into a big smile. That is what life is about...being happy.

For the past 19 years, I have been participating in outdoor art shows, and a few indoor ones as well. In the early years, I would only do 2 or 3 shows per year. Now that I have retired from the Post Office, I try to do 8 to 10 shows per year.

I have been as far north as Quincy, Illinois and as far south as Orlando, Florida. When I am at these shows, I like to demonstrate how I paint. People don't believe that my pieces are painted using razor blades so I have to show how it is done.

A portion of everything I sell goes to animal rescue.

Durwood Pepper

Excerpts from The Times newspaper article
Sunday, April 1, 2007 “Art that Twirls & Whirls”

By Ashley Bates

Whirling windmills and whirligigs, along with tin-can flowers and creatures made from cut metal, is what Durwood Pepper calls art.

His brightly painted artwork spills over the driveway around his home and down the steep slope heading to Lake Lanier.



Photograph Scott Rogers with the Times

You may see a chicken chasing an egg or a Maltese chasing a Great Dane. There is even Jesus with the 12 disciples all affixed to a windmill -- each character more interesting and colorful than the next.

"I just like the old folk art," said Pepper, a Gainesville native. "I use the old metal from chicken houses. I'm not interested in fancy artwork, I'm more country. And I think it's more personalized. Everything is just one of a kind and it speaks to me more."

To begin a project, Pepper collects the tin and cuts out the images with tin snips. For his windmills, Pepper cuts tin paddles, then paints them and attaches them to a wooden cross.

"I also can look at the metal and see designs," he said. "I was trying to cut out a sun one day and it just came out as a fish."

Another tool Pepper just began to use for his artwork is a rivet gun.

"I learned how to use that (rivet gun) last weekend and can put things on like the wings on the dog now," Pepper said.

For each project Pepper says the ideas just come to him while he sits in his carport listening to country music.

"(I get my ideas) From the news, or the stories I hear, music, whatever comes to mind," he said.

Don Wheatley

I grew up on a farm in Wilkes County, Georgia. When I was eight years old, I was given my first guitar which I learned to play by ear. This started a lifelong love of music. My other love was for art. I used many mediums from chalk to oil. My cartoon figures can now be seen in my faces. In 1993, I married a girl from Habersham County, Georgia and moved from the “flat lands” to the mountains. This introduced mountain music and mountain life. I began playing the bass guitar for our church and taught myself to play a mandolin, banjo, violin, and dobro. In 1996 a daughter was born and in 1999 a son. 2002 was a turning point in my life which ultimately led me to pottery.



Let me explain a little...

At the age of five I started having headaches and was diagnosed with a brain tumor (size of a lemon). I've been told I was one of the first pediatric patients in Georgia to have a successful removal of a brainstem tumor. Radiation therapy followed and annual scans until the doctor gave a release. A trip to the eye doctor sent me to the emergency room in 2002 for brain surgery (tumor was the size of a large grapefruit). This was followed by gamma knife treatment and four more invasive surgeries through the years. We found out radiation therapy given to a child creates meningioma brain tumors later in life.

The last surgery in July 2009 (too close to the brainstem) left me with no feeling and little control of my entire left side. Therapy, therapy, and more therapy helped me to walk and move more naturally. My occupational therapist who has parents active in the arts at the Helen Arts Center recommended I try pottery. Pottery has been a blessing! Folk painting (art) too!

Jason Smith

Jason has never had a lesson, or any sort of formal training in art. He is a completely self-taught artist. Making art has been a great asset and outlet for him over the last year and a half. Upon release from the service, he was rated as disabled by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and has had a hard time maintaining any sort of formal employment. His art has given him back the feeling of self-sustainment and purpose that he would never have again.



Jason attributes the discovery of his talent at the age of 30 as a gift from God. He does pieces in many different subject matter from military, to wildlife, to farming. Jason also does a considerable amount of religious based art. He feels that it is his way of honoring God for the talent he has bestowed on him.

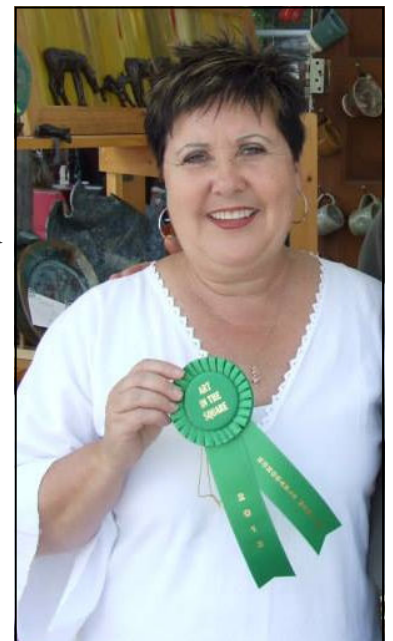
<http://thecraftycowboy.webstarts.com/index.html>

Robin “bird” Smith

Robin “Bird” Smith is a self-taught folk sculptor that started working with clay in 2000. She works from her home studio in Gainesville, Georgia. She also creates layered paintings and mixed media pieces.

“Bird” is inspired by the outdoors and all things nature, from the North Georgia Mountains to the plains of Middle America. She has been fortunate to travel all over the United States and to Europe. The main characters in her ceramic pieces live on her Merrylegs Farm in Blairsville, Georgia.

She is represented by many art galleries in Dawsonville, Rome, Blue Ridge, Winder, Cumming, and Gainesville, Georgia as well as Brasstown, North Carolina.



Suzy Sue Smith

Suzy Sue is a self-taught maker of things. A resident of the North Georgia Mountains, Suzy sue has drawn on her love of nature and the native peoples of this area, as well as her own notions of all things spiritual, to make artwork she hopes truly speaks to its audience. She uses a wide variety of materials and techniques to project her feelings in ways that are at once common to the human condition, as well as deeply individual, depending on the observer's own life experiences and current state of mind. Most of the materials she uses are found natural objects or donated cast-offs from generous friends that are given new life in her work. Suzy Sue is raising a teenage son, Tyler, who is already a talented artist in his own right. She and Tyler spend much of their free time exploring the forests and streams around them In their beautiful North Georgia surrounding hills of home.

<https://www.facebook.com/smittymadethis>



A.J. Wolff

AJ Wolff is a retired art teacher who enjoys painting, teaching, and traveling. She resides in North Georgia near Dahlonega and is a member of the Chestatee Artists www.chestateeartists.com. AJ earned her Masters of Art in Fine Arts from Piedmont College and enjoyed teaching art for many years in middle school and high school in California and Florida. Now she gives painting demos and workshop for adults interested in finding their creative voice.



AJ shares her studio with her two cats Tyler, Lucylu and dog, Daisy. Lucylu enjoys napping on her lap while she paints and Daisy is always near by. AJ's winter stay on the coast of Baja Mexico has inspired your Talavera series of paintings adding a bright "slash of color" to her work. Currently she is working on a new series taking some of the Talavera designs and adding whimsical flying pigs. She was inspired to create her flying pigs series after having heart valve replacement surgery, She said I am living thanks to a pig's valve and so I feel the expression "When pigs can fly" fits the magic of my current joyful life.

<http://ajwolff.webs.com/>

Jane Taylor

Jane Taylor began her craft out of necessity. When she opened her shop, “Cottage Garden Antiques”, in 1999, things sometimes needed repairing. She bought a welder and set out learning how to make the repairs. Soon learning that she could create art with repurposed metals, she took her passion to the next level. I have always had a passion for recycling... taking something that nobody wants and giving it new life.”



Jane likes to keep the integrity of the iron. She believes that repurposing should honor the craftsman that made it. She works with such intensity, that she can recall the history of pieces that she uses to create her work. When asked, Jane says that her inspiration comes from studying each piece and the potential it has.

Jane has been featured as an exhibitor at the Quinlan Arts Center in 2007 and 2009. She creates custom work as well as showcase pieces. Starting with whimsy in the garden, Jane has moved into large scale art as well as creating pieces for the indoors. Some of her current projects including lighting, railing, doors and furniture.

<http://thejanetaylorart.com/meet-jt-2/>

Kip Ramey

Rabun County native Kip Ramey comes from a family of crafters. His love for music, art and fishing has never wavered in this thirty-six years. He began drawing when he picked up his first pencil and at present will paint on anything that doesn't breath. Kip's mission is to paint the folk tales he grew up hearing from his Dad and others. "My dad is a great storyteller and I am not... but I can share those old stories through my art. I have always been fascinated by our heritage and the tales of life long ago." Kip

explains how today's youth are so connected they are disconnected and in this age of technology how human interaction is almost a lost art. He feels driven to share these humorous tales often riddled with the raw human emotion of generations who lived through harder times than most of us have ever seen. Storytelling was once the only entertainment families had and those old stories are what he intends to share.

Kip Ramey is a true folk artist who pulls his inspiration from characters such as Mr. Ed Ramey. Ed was the buck dancing gas station attendant in the 1972 film Deliverance. Many of his so called canvases are often old barn boards, culvert pipes, rusted metal and things that others see as waste. He likes to give them purpose again and wants people to see the beauty in the imperfections. A lesson we could all learn. Each piece of Kip's work is truly original. While he admires the work of many of today's top folk artists, Kip stresses that he wants his art to be his own.

Describing Kip as civic-minded would be a gross understatement. He is involved in many projects at any given time, offering his time to many charitable organizations. From putting together an open mic night at the Promenade for the Arts in Mountain City to organizing a folk art festival in conjunction with Foxfire, his hands are in the mix. "I believe in working for the common good of the community and all people. I think we should spend more time lifting each other up and doing great things. We are blessed people and have much to be thankful for."

To view the work of Kip Ramey one can visit The Promenade for the Arts in Mountain City or find KMA Art on Facebook. If you attend area events that promote the arts you will more than likely encounter Kip Ramey.



Around Back at Rocky's Place Artists:

Kelly Bentley Ash, Marvin Bailey, Michel Bayne, Carl Block, Blue J., Cornbread, Steven Chandler, Athlone Clarke, Randy Ellett, Charlie Frye, Dorethey Gorham, Harry Jennings, Matt Jones, Larry Ledford, Juanita Leonard, Buttermilk Loaf, Rik Long, Lonnie & Twyla Money, David Ricketts, Billy Roper, Stephanie Talley, Randy Tobias, Tom & Judy Touchstone.



Around Back at Rocky's Place
3631 GA-53,
Dawsonville, GA 30534
(706) 265-6030
aroundbackatrockysplace.com

Ken “Blacktop” Gentle

Ken “Blacktop” Gentle is a self-taught artist who began painting at an early age as a way of sharing his experiences of growing up in the South. His paintings typically start with a base of "black tar" on wood, tar paper, tin or cardboard - hence the moniker "Blacktop". His style of using a mixture of found objects further comple-

ments the stories he tells. 'My paintings are a process of storytelling - invoking the past and spirit into people & environments. They are also about a way of life, about the struggle of life and the events that have changed our lives'. This highly acclaimed artist is in numerous galleries, business and private collections around the country. Blacktop's work has been referenced or featured in various newspapers and magazines across the U.S. and was the subject of a Georgia Public Radio interview. His work is in the permanent collections of Kennesaw State University and Appalachian State University.

