

Biography

Sterling Edwards was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1951. Since early childhood he has been drawn to the brush and encouraged to paint. What began as Saturday morning art lessons at age twelve has evolved in to a full time career as a professional artist with works in private art collections worldwide. Sterling began, as most artists, painting in a photorealistic manner. He



He spent several years learning the technical elements of oil painting such as color mixing, composition, spatial balance, and expressive brushwork. There was something missing in his work, however, that prompted Sterling to leave the comfort zone of realism and venture into the world of expressionism and abstraction. He realized that his personal interpretation was equally as important in his paintings as his technical skills. It was OK to exaggerate colors, alter the composition, and simplify shapes. This epiphany was the beginning of a quest to find his own voice that would set his paintings apart from those done by other artists. Sterling began studying other mediums and spent a great deal of time experimenting. In 1985 he was introduced to transparent watercolors and was immediately inspired by the looseness and freshness of the medium. He was fortunate to have met and studied with the late watercolor master Zoltan Szabo for sixteen years. The experience was priceless and lit a fuse that burned steadily. What had begun as a hobby was now a burning passion. In 2000 Sterling exploded on to the art world as an accomplished watercolorist. Within a year he was invited to travel throughout the US and Canada teaching his style of painting to thousands

of artists from the novice to the professional. In addition to painting he designed and produced his own unique set of signature watercolor brushes and a custom watercolor palette that are marketed internationally bearing his name. In 2005 Sterling began producing large acrylic abstract paintings that incorporate many of the techniques and processes that had been so successful in his watercolor paintings.

Borrowing ideas and inspiration from nature provides Sterling with an unending range of subject matter for his abstract paintings. The subject of the painting will dictate whether it should be painted as a total abstraction or a representational rendering with abstracted design elements. Capturing the emotion and the expression of the subject is the ultimate goal for Sterling. Often something as simple as sunlight filtering through trees can be the catalyst behind a large abstract interpretation on canvas. By selectively balancing positive and negative space and employing a strong contrast in values Sterling begins the process of recreating the emotion of the second. Expressive brushwork, complimentary color rhythms, and a multitude of textures complete the image. Sterling's award winning paintings are in several galleries in North Carolina and Ontario. He works from his home studio in Hendersonville, North Carolina in the beautiful Smokey Mountains.

Artist's Statement

“The passion to physically create, the desire to interpret, the flexibility to evolve, and the steadfastness to be different; these are the inherent qualities that I have come to know about myself. I feel that they are what make me a true artist. Everything else is merely technique.”

Sterling Edwards