

KY 225 ARTISANS CENTER EVENT
225: Artists Celebrate Kentucky's History
Kentucky Artisans Center
March 25 - September 23, 2017

Kentucky celebrates the 225th Anniversary of becoming a state in 1792, and the [Kentucky Artisan Center](#) at Berea honors that history with the exhibit 225: Artists Celebrate Kentucky's History.

With a long and rich history behind it, Kentucky offers artists a multitude of historical subjects, ideas, traditions and connections. This exhibit includes 60 works by 51 Kentucky artists that record, capture, embrace and celebrate a facet or subject from Kentucky's rich 225 year history.

These works capture the essence of Kentucky – its historical places, people, events, state commerce, agriculture and the state's unique flora and fauna. Accompanied by written stories and histories in each artist's words, this exhibit entices the viewer visually and verbally.

I Must Have Kentucky

John Andrew Dixon, Danville, KY

Mixed media with salvaged wood and metal, discarded books, magazines, maps, and mailers. Lettering is hand-painted with acrylics

1272015C



This work commemorates the Commonwealth during 1860-1864, the most tumultuous period in its history. Central to these years is Kentucky's illustrious native son – Abraham Lincoln – who encapsulated the significance of the border state to the cause of national unity when he declared, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky."

Individuals featured in this collage are Kentucky native Jefferson Davis, Senator Stephen A. Douglas, Mary Todd Lincoln and son Willie, Munfordville native Simon B. Buckner, Frederick Douglass, Ulysses S. Grant, Clara Barton, John Hunt Morgan and others.

In 2009 during the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, I created a metal star with Lincoln images which became the centerpiece for this new work. The Civil War pitted brother against brother and family against family – and Kentucky is the state that gave birth to the presidents of each warring side.

I have always had a fascination with the creative process. After 40 years as a graphic designer, I focus on collage and wood engraving. My wife Dana and I operate a gallery, studio and residence in downtown historic Danville, KY.

Tulip Poplar Bloom

Jim Sams, London, KY

Tupelo gum and hickory wood, acrylic paint

398019C



Not only is the tulip poplar Kentucky's state tree, it has a rich history with the people of Kentucky. The tulip poplar was one of the first trees harvested in Kentucky. The earliest explorers would hollow out a single poplar log to make long dugout canoes to navigate the hundreds of miles of waterways in Kentucky. It is recorded that after Daniel Boone failed to acquire land grants for the Transylvania Company in Kentucky, he headed down the Ohio River with his family and belongings all packed in a 50-60 foot long tulip poplar canoe.

Poplars were favored for constructing log buildings because of its long, straight growth, its relatively light-weight, and because it seemed resistant to insect attack and decay. As a result, it became the wood of choice on the frontier to construct everything from wagons and kitchen utensils to musical instruments and toys. When the tulip poplar was in bloom, one mature, twenty-year-old tree could produce enough nectar for 4 pounds of honey.

Tulip poplars still grow plentiful in Kentucky. It is the tallest tree in the eastern United States, reaching heights of 120 feet or more. In good sites, the tulip poplar can live up to 300+ years. The Kentucky Champion tulip poplar tree is in Beaver Creek, McCreary County. It is 168 feet tall and is believed to be approximately 300 years old.

As a botanical artist, working in wood the tulip poplar is one of my favorite subjects. Being in the magnolia family, it bears a large, impressive bloom in late spring.

With the Daniel Boone National Forest at my back door, I have unending inspiration at hand. While carving, I choose different species of wood, each with unique qualities that lend themselves to the shaping, bending, and texturing needed to bring the wood to life. I have been creating “wood art” as a career for 37 years. I am self-taught and continue to strive to improve with every piece.

Daniel Boone and Frontier Legends

Steve White, Maysville, KY

Oil on Canvas

397016C



My paintings are about Kentucky's settlement period of 1775-1790.

I have always been fascinated with pioneers and Indians. Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, Daniel Trabeau, James Harrod and Ben Logan are all depicted – left to right in this painting. Daniel Trabeau had a spotted bulldog – the first to be introduced to America and it can be seen at the front of the painting with the clipped tail.

I painted these famous Kentuckians at Fort Boonesborough and while historians are not sure if the N.E. blockhouse had a roof –I painted it with one.

I have an interest in the Indians of this period as well – Blackfish, Blue Jacket and Dragging Canoe – all have become historical folk heroes to me.

My paintings are oil on canvas and are painted like watercolors with a surface that begins as a wash. The image is worked from light to dark with the final image painted with probably 6 or 7 coats of paint. Most of the white color in the painting is the canvas showing. Very little white is used.

I show my paintings in shows and galleries all across America.