ANDREW BERMAN

THE ARTWORK OF EARL KLATZEL

MAY 18, 2017 LIFESTYLE



As a kid I took a school field trip to the House of Blues. That experience was the driving force behind the opening of my own blues joint 25 years later. While mine did not fare as well, I tried to replicate some aspects of what I remembered from that first experience. It was the artwork I remembered most vividly.

In my years of planning to open my own blues joint, I scoured the internet for blues artwork. There just wasn't anything that spoke to me. Nothing that had the colors and the stories that I remembered feeling. I know that sounds pretentious, but I'm not sure how else to phrase it.

I'm not an art snob, even though I owned an art gallery. I couldn't care less about the artists inspiration, style, types of paints, or anything else. The only thing I cared about was if it was cool to look at, would I put it on my wall, and that it told a story. I didn't care what the story was, or even if every person who viewed it saw the same story. I just wanted to get lost in it.

About to give up on my search, I finally found what I was looking for. His name is Earl Klatzel and over the course of the last 5 or 6 years, we have become friends. It all started when I found his website. I was lost in his work for hours. Clicking page after page, I was seeing all the paintings that I had envisioned hanging throughout my blues joint (or my home). I hit the jackpot. I shot him a quick note

asking about prices. It was then that I was introduced to the reality of artwork. It can get expensive very quickly. But you have to ask yourself, would you you rather a print of a birch tree in your living room that is hanging in tons of homes, or a truly original piece of art for a few hundred or sometimes thousands more. It really is an investment.

Not everyone can afford his quality of artwork. I'm one of them. But fortunately for me, one of my favorites was available as a print so I placed an order. I still have it to this day, framed and on the wall over my fireplace (that's it to the right).

Earl and I had corresponded a few times over the next couple years as I had told him my plans for a blues joint and potentially featuring his work. Sure enough, when the time came to open the doors, I had 6 of Earl's originals showcased right where the customers walked in. There was not a customer who walked in who did not stop at his work and comment. They all loved how every picture told a story. Earl was very generous with the sale of these works to me, as he understood what I was trying to do with my blues joint for up and coming musicians, and I'll be forever grateful. You can find four of his originals available in our store if you would like the opportunity to add one to your collection.













It's not often that we put links that take you away from our site, but this is one case where we won't hesitate to send you over to Earl's <u>website</u> to view his blues artwork. You'll find the history of the blues, musicians and impressions. You'll also find some artwork of the Bahamas as well as other miscellaneous pieces. Check out Earl's artist statement and biography and you will understand why his work fit so closely to my vision. We hope you will support Earl and all the other artists out there sharing a piece of themselves with all of us through their work.