

Bluesworks by Earl - Perks of the Trade

01-----

Jim Brewer wrote: **Mississippi Musicians Hall Of Fame** 2006

Earl, Thanks for sharing your wonderful series on famous music personalities. Have you ever exhibited in Mississippi?

The Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame is dedicated to showcasing Mississippi's musical heritage and musicians. We have long wanted to have a series of cards or prints to market depicting Mississippi musicians. We also have a TV series being produced that could be a platform for your art. Finally, we are working with the Music Museum Alliance, a national group, to construct a traveling exhibit on American roots music. Thanks again for showing us your work and please suggest ways we can work together. Dr. Jim Brewer, Chair, Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame

-

Hi Jim, Thank you for your kind reply. I have never shown my work outside of Canada, only via the internet. I am getting a fast growing international following lately which I am very proud. I show exclusively out of one gallery here in Calgary, Alberta. I do all sales through myself and the gallery only. As I do offer Limited Edition, signed & numbered, museum quality canvas giclee's, I only print each giclee at the time of an order, because of the cost it takes for me to produce one and because of the custom sizes I offer. I am interested in working some sort of arrangement with the MMHOF, because of who you are. Painting Blues & it's History is a passion with me, and I would truly love to be involve with the MMHOF somehow.

I do not put my originals on tour because of the liability to them, they take a great deal of time to paint and moving paintings too often tends to show wear & tear on them. I am just a small personal business and I treat my paintings with great care. I am very busy right now but in the near future I would be honored to donate a signed & numbered giclee of "John Lee Hooker" to the MMHOB to own & display. Thank you again Jim, it has been an honor to talk with you. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Earl, Thanks for the quick reply. We would be delighted to receive the donation and would display it in our museum. Our museum is located at the Jackson/Evers International Airport which has tow and a half million travelers a year. We do display other art there and yours would be a great addition. I would like to talk later about a traveling art exhibit of your work in Mississippi and possibly in other states. I realize that it could not be original paintings of your work and would not want that responsibility. There are several location in our state that I could arrange to accommodate your work. Thanks, Jim

Earl, I just received the painting and posters. Thank you so much for the contribution to our collection. I will be taking it tomorrow to be framed. In addition, I believe I will frame the accompanying poster featuring your other work. The two items will be on display at the Jackson International Airport's

Mississippi Music Hall of Fame Music Heritage Restaurant/Museum. Over 2 million travelers will see the work. I will be sure to include your contact information. Thanks again, Jim

02-----

Kumi Smedley wrote: **Web-link to Tommy Shannon** 2006

Amazing..... You are an incredible talent..... With great admiration, Kumi and Tommy Shannon

-

Hello Kumi, Thank you kindly for such nice words, I really appreciate it. How is Tommy's t-shirt holding up? I know it was a few years back since I gave it to him, so it must be worn out by now. If he enjoyed it, I will send you a couple more. Let me know. Thanks again for the inspirational reply. Sincerely, Earl

-

Hi Earl! Actually, the shirt is holding up really well! He's really careful about certain t-shirts and will only wear them occasionally - he's funny that way. So, we have the really one-of-a-kind separated from his others. And, by the way, I sent your email to Tommy's webmaster. She was really taken aback by your site and your work. Would it be okay if we added it to Tommy's links on his website? Hope all is well. I think you should have a showing in Austin.....Please keep in touch and update us on anything new. Thanks! Kumi

-

Hi Kumi, That's great that he still has the t-shirt. The offer still stands on a new one anytime, if you guys want new Stevie shirts, we would be honored. You know, I'm that way about my one of a kind t-shirts too, especially my 1977 Led Zep concert shirt from the Kingdome. They have there own special place in the closet.

Thank you for passing on my link to Beverly, I ended up e-mailing her last night after I heard from you. I realized I did not let her know about my new site. I hope to hear back from her, it's been a few years. I'd love to show in Austin, but painting takes up most of my time, maybe in the future. Here is a sneak preview for you of a painting that I just finishing up. It still has a few more highlights but close enough to let you have a peek. No name yet but it is 42"x 62" in size. It will not be shown until Feb. 2007 at my annual gallery showing. Hope you like. Thanks again Kumi, it has been a real pleasure chatting with you. I will keep you updated on anything new in the future. Sincerely, Earl (P.S. I have attached a pic of Tammy & I at my Annual Showing so you know who your chatting with.)

-

Wow – your work is just amazing and this last one is a jaw-dropper. Maybe in my next life I can have just a little bit of that kind of talent. Please say hello to your lovely wife – great looking couple!!! Perhaps we'll be able to catch one of your gallery showings – that would be amazing for us to see your work up close! Bev has your link up on Tommy's site, and she's going to put a blurb on the front page. Keep us

updated and thanks SO much!!! Keeping the music alive can be more than just the music itself. Kumi & Tommy Shannon

-

Hi Kumi, Since you asked to keep you informed on anything new, I thought I would let you know my "Skip James" painting was just chosen by the Monterey Bay Blues Festival for the 2007 Fest posters, programs, t-shirts, ticket brochers. It is a great honor for me, very proud. Take care, Earl

-

WOW - congratulations! Well deserved....!!!! That is going to look really great on t-shirts, posters, etc. That is so cool!!!! Congrats!!!!!! Kumi

03-----

Beverly Howell wrote: **Web-link to Tommy Shannon** 2006

Hi Earl, Wow, I am just floored, your work is nothing short of AMAZING! Your history of the blues, and blues impressionism galleries are amongst my favorites...and the Stevie works, of course! I've added a link to your site from Tommy's site to turn some folks on to your talent. You can see it on Tommy's site by going to www.tommyshannon.com Best Regards, Beverly Howell

-

Hi Beverly, Thank you for the inspiring compliments, I am glad you enjoyed my work. That's so cool being linked to Tommy Shannon's website, very honored.

04-----

Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw Co. wrote: **Licensing your artwork for wooden jigsaw puzzles** 2008

Hi, We are British designers and manufacturers of old-fashioned wooden jigsaw puzzles. You can see our product line at www.jigsaws.co.uk and we would like to create a puzzle based on your artwork. The sort of pictures I have in mind are: Roadhouse Blues II, Maxwell Street Shuffle, Sweet Home Chicago, Mississippi John and Friends.

We would design a puzzle (of which you would receive two free samples) in which selected pieces would be cut in the shapes of objects/instruments associated with blues music. I attach our standard licensing terms for your consideration and would be grateful to hear from you if this idea is of any interest to you. Best wishes, James Leith, Consultant WWJC

Hi Earl, I know you have been in touch with my colleagues Sarah & James but I am contacting you direct as I run the Wentworth Website and I am looking for an exciting new collection for launch over the next week or so and I think your images would be ideal. I have asked our cut designer to create some brand new cuts that reflect the theme and the feeling of your fabulous pictures and he is more than happy to oblige - he loves blues so I know they will be brilliant.

I have listed here the items I would like to offer: P-160 Eric Clapton, P-150 Jimi Hendrix, P-076 Tina Turner, P-146 Stevie Ray Vaughan, P-251 Roadhouse Blues II, P-188 An Evening in New Orleans, P-180 Maxwell Street Shuffle, P-169 Sweet Home Chicago, P-166 Roadhouse Blues P-248 The Funky Butt (this looks fantastic as a panoramic size)

Once everything is ready I will launch your collection on our front page and also dedicate a whole newsletter to send to our database of nearly 50,000 so I hope to get a great response! I can get the proofs done and ensure we go live with your collection before the end of the month. I look forward to hearing from you! Kind Regards, Jessica Cummins

AD: Introducing 'Bluesworks'

Dear Puzzler, We have the great pleasure of introducing Bluesworks by Earl Klatzel now available as jigsaws! Earls paintings portray the history of the Blues with real people, places & architecture and his use of muddy earthtone colour brings reality to an era that was recorded in black & white photos. These Black History paintings are a window in time that show the people and their surroundings that were the beginning of the Blues.

FEATURED PRODUCTS

*****Earl Klatzel Musicians Travel Pack*****

You may recognise some of these well know musicians, featuring 4 micro puzzles of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Tina Turner, Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton. Included with every travel pack is a board to do your micro jigsaws on so they are ideal for taking anywhere and are great value. Puzzles also available separately in standard sizes.

*****Roadhouse Blues Double Puzzle Set*****

Great value double puzzle pack featuring Roadhouse Blues & Roadhouse Blues II. Both puzzles come in their own box and bag, if you want a real challenge then mix all the pieces up! Puzzles also available separately.

*****Sweet Home Chicago*****

*****Stevie Ray Vaughan*****

*****Roadhouse Blues II*****

*****An Evening in New Orleans*****

Hi Earl, Your samples are being manufactured at the moment and should be despatched within the next week. Did you see the e-mail newsletter last week? It has been performing well and we are starting to sell your puzzles! Kind Regards, Jessica Cummins, E-commerce Executive The Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw Company Ltd

See Bluesworks LINKS-PRESS-PHOTOS pg. for images & write-up...

Earl Klatzel wrote: **your Honeyboy photo's** 2008

Hi Joanie, I want to thank you for being an appreciative follower of my work. Your "Linky Love" blog entry with my website link directed me back to your website through my stat page. It was very nice to read what you had written. I did not read many of your blog entries but I did go through your enjoyable photography. I very much liked your HoneyBoy photo's. I just saw Honeyboy within the last year myself and he was wearing the same clothes he had on for your performance. This intrigued me to ask you if I can use a few various shots from your portfolio combined with shots I have taken to create his portrait. I have looked for the right facial expression and pose on Honeyboy for quite some time now, this is the only way to translate the style & sound of his music through portraiture. As he always sits exactly the same way most of the time this is not as crucial as his facial expression. I have noticed you have captured in one of your photo's a close enough expression on him that I can work with. I also like the baseball cap he was wearing at your performance better too. I plan to do a montage background in faint washes that speaks of his life style over the years. It will somewhat resemble my Robert Johnson portrait (Me & The Devil Blues) Please let me know if using your photo is ok with you, and I can finally add HoneyBoy's legacy to my own portfolio.

Thank you again for all your support, it is dearly appreciated. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Dear Earl, I'm so glad you like my Honeyboy photos. Over the last few years, I've developed a wonderful, deep respect for the man and, okay, a bit of a crush, too. His spirit is so amazingly strong and vibrant, even at 93 years of age! Please let me know which images you'd like to use and you're more than welcome to them. I can't wait to see what you come up with!

I agree with you about the right facial expression and pose as a means of communicating the style and sound of his music. You do that so brilliantly in your work already. I don't know if it's the colors you use or the obvious love you have for your subject, but you capture more than mere ambience. I've spent hours getting lost in your images. Each tells a story in a way that I can't describe. There's warmth, sorrow, joy, and even music ringing forth from your paintings that many others lack. Believe me, I've poured through thousands of photos of paintings, drawings, and photographs, and the majority are "nice" but fail to move me the way your work does. And that's why I come back to it time and time again. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help. If you need larger files, I'm happy to send them. All the best, Joanie (Photographer) San Diego / Las Vegas.

-

Hi Joanie, Thank you for the all kind words, you really see the artwork for what I try and put into it. Followers of my work like yourself are really what keeps me pushing forward, as well the admiration I have for the musicians that created it. I'm glad you see the story told in every painting. Your perception of my work has hit the nail on the head and I thank you dearly for letting me know.

Your photograph that I am interested in is number P1260043. HoneyBoy's expression and mouth position in this photo really shows the sound of his forced but mumbled vocals. It is more of a sound we hear come from his singing then lyrics we can understand. I know from the performance I was at, his vocals had the eerie sound of days past but I could not make out any of the lyrics, even when I knew the words, lol. A very unique and distinct sound as a performer. He was amazing to sit and talk with, and his character was genuinely sincere as he spoke to me. His reaction and answers to some of my questions could not be guessed in a thousand years. He is the last of the originals that lived the blues from the start, and I feel very lucky to say that I met and talked with him.

Thank you for all your support and helping me tell the legacy of HoneyBoy. This painting will take me a month or two since I have a few projects on the go at the moment. I will let you know when I have it finished. Take care! Sincerely, Earl

06-----

Joan Hunt wrote: **Re: Bluesworks by Earl Klatzel - New painting "HoneyBoy" 2009**

Earl, it's wonderful! You captured all the wonderful beauty and depth of Honeyboy. I love the details and the way the past and present flow together. I'm definitely going to have to step up my game if I'm ever to produce something even half as amazing. WOW! Joanie (Photographer) San Diego / Las Vegas.

-

Hi Joanie! I'm glad you liked it!! I did do some changes in regards to his clothing and switched to an acoustic guitar from the electric he was using in your photo. The plain honey colored vest seemed more appropriate then the patterned vest, especially with everything I had going on in the background. I'm really happy with the way it turned out.

-

Earl, I am really impressed with the painting. I can't say it enough. You made great editing choices on the vest and the guitar, which I think do balance much better with the background. That's something only a seasoned artist can do -- know when and what to edit to create the best image possible. Would it be okay with you if I posted it on my blog, along with a link to your site? I want people to keep going back to you so they can drool and swoon, and then buy some art!

-

Yes Joanie, be my guest and post the Honeyboy image with my link if you like, I would be honored! You can even mention that the painting was derived from both our combined photographs of Honeyboy and that I contacted you about the use of your photo's before creating the painting. I like to give credit where it's due. And thank you for all your blog promotion towards my work, I appreciate it dearly. Take care of yourself and keep in touch. Sincerely, Earl

-

Thank you for allowing me to share the new painting, too. It wasn't all that long ago that I mentioned your work, so people will be thrilled to see how much you did in such a short time (especially when you consider all the other things on your plate!). I'll post something sometime this week. Joanie

BLOG Post:

Back in September, I wrote about an artist named Earl Klatzel. Some of you went to visit his site and immediately discovered a real treasure. Well, because you went to explore, Earl came over this way to see what was going on. He then emailed me. And since then, we've exchanged numerous emails. In one of the emails, he asked if he could use some photos to help him build a portrait of Honeyboy Edwards. I said yes without hesitation (really, I'm that easy when it comes to art, it seems). A couple weeks ago, he emailed me to let me know the painting was finished and gave me permission to share it.

Honeyboy Edwards by Earl Klatzel

About the only way to do this painting justice is to quote an early email between Earl and I because what I said about his other paintings is exactly what I would say about this one.

...the right facial expression and pose as a means of communicating the style and sound of his music [regarding Honeyboy Edwards]. You do that so brilliantly in your work already. I don't know if it's the colors you use or the obvious love you have for your subject, but you capture more than mere ambience. I've spent hours getting lost in your images. Each tells a story in a way that I can't describe. There's warmth, sorrow, joy, and even music ringing forth from your paintings that many others lack. Believe me, I've poured through thousands of photos of paintings, drawings, and photographs, and the majority are "nice" but fail to move me the way your work does. And that's why I come back to it time and time again.

Like most Klatzel portraits, Honeyboy is not only shown in the foreground as we know him, but the background tells the story of how he lived as a younger man — the life that shaped him and led him to where he is now. Amazingly, Earl captures the essence of his subjects with such clarity that I can hear the music and feel the wooshing of air as Honeyboy plays his guitar.

My imagination is good, but not that good. Only art brings that out. And I am grateful and honored to have been a tiny part of the process. Thank you, Earl!

Can you imagine a world without art or music? I can't. It'd be like a world without books, without the laughter of children, without birds singing, and dare I get so touchy-feely and say like a life without a single embrace. To me, that's not living. That's existing. And that is simply unacceptable to me.

So go on, go soak up some beauty. Feel the sun warm you, smell the richness of the soil, feel the dust on your skin, and hear the music in Earl's work. Tell him I said hello! ...Joanie

07-----

Michael Frank wrote: **Re: Bluesworks - New painting: Dave "Honeyboy" Edwards 2009**

Would you mind if we put it on a T-shirt which we would sell at Honeyboy's gigs and our websites? We would credit you on the shirt and on the web sites. We will put a link to your web site. Michael Frank, President & CEO Earwig Music Company www.earwigmusic.com

-

Hello Michael, It's very nice to talk with you again. Not sure if you remember me but I'm sure you remember playing the Red Onion Club here in Calgary a few years back. I gave Honeyboy a t-shirt with

my Robert Johnson painting on it that night, which he so graciously accepted. The music was just fantastic and you both left an everlasting impression on me. It took me a while to paint Honeyboy since I talked with him, I always kept a look out for the right photographs of him to use. I'm so glad this painting finally happened and Honeyboy can see it.

Michael, on your offer to credit and print my Dave Honeyboy Edwards painting on t-shirts to be sold, this would be of great interest to me knowing that Honeyboy was to benefit from sales of my image. I would like to do this for Honeyboy in appreciation for all he has given to the blues. I will offer you a 5 year contract that would allow you to use my image on t-shirts only, copyright free, unlimited production and no licensing fee for the promotional attributes you have listed in your letter below.

-

Thanks for the reply Earl. I will talk with Honeyboy in the next few days and if he says to go ahead with a t-shirt we may do so soon. One question I have is - have you clarified what the rights are of the original photographer or holder of the photo copyright when you paint an image of the photo or incorporate an image of the photo into a painting? Who took the photo of Honeyboy for example?

-

Yes, I have always honored the copyrights of any photographs I use, this is an absolute necessity in my line of work. With Honeyboy's painting I used a combination of my photographs and a photo from a photographer by the name of Joan Hunt. I have been chatting with her just the past few days, she has been patiently waiting to see the painting for a while now. I had asked her before I even started the painting if I could use her image for the pose and the certain facial expression that I was looking for. She new about my work and was an avid fan of my paintings, and offered me any of her hi-res photos to use free of copyright. She's just thrilled about the painting and asked me today if she can post it on her website.

I have been very fortunate with a lot of professional photographers that love my work. Big names like Henry Benson, Kurt Swan, Will Wallace, Joerg Leukel, Arnie Goodman have all offered me photos I may need from their portfolios, free to use. Others I have paid out for the copyrights like Ernest C Withers, David Garr, Delta Haze Corp, etc. In Honeyboys painting, I created the honey colored vest and the gold pin striped shirt for the right feeling I needed, and added the acoustic guitar. In Joan Hunts photograph, he wears a patterned vest and has an electric guitar. She knew I only needed the pose and his facial expression. My painting image will not match any photograph out there. Thank you for asking.
Sincerely, Earl

08-----

Joan Hunt wrote: **Honeyboy print** 2009

Beautiful pieces, Earl! Beautiful. Did you do any prints of the painting of Honeyboy? If so, how much would one be? Joanie P.S. I get to see him again on January 14!

Hey Earl, After talking with my mom, the less I have to actually do to the Honeyboy print, the better. The Tyvek gleece sounds just about perfect. The framing would be easy and the print would be protected. Just let me know how we'd do this. Joanie (Photographer) San Diego / Las Vegas.

-

Thank You Joanie! If you don't mind I'd like to personalize it for you too. Let me know if you would like that...

-

Thank you so much. You have no idea how much this means to me. Personalized? WOW! I'm so excited! For me, this is one of those major moments in life that I never even dreamed of because I didn't think it was possible. And to think, next week I'll be sitting in front of Honeyboy again Feeling his music and stories wash over me like warm rain in a dry summer I'm also hoping to go to Chicago this year to see him play there. This is the year of exploration for me. The year I challenge myself and make something happen. Thank you for seeing something in my work and for your encouragement. I hope I can do justice to the men and women who deserve their time in the sun as you have. Hopefully, yes, we will meet up at the Crossroads soon. With less spooky results than the men who have inspired us. Joanie 2010

-

Hi Joanie! I was just at the printhouse on the weekend getting your gleece done and I packaged it up yesterday. It looks as good as the original, I know you will enjoy sitting back and watching it come alive when you play Honeyboy's music. My paintings here come alive when I play the blues. Thanks again for being a friend, and for your generosity with your photo's. I appreciate it all dearly. Take care, keep healthy, and keep in touch. P.S. How was Honeyboys show? Sincerely, Earl

-

Earl, Just got home from San Diego Sunday evening. The show was fantastic and Honeyboy was in fine form. As usual, he was a little tired during the second half of the show, but he kept playing and Michael, Chris, and Patrick had to nudge him off the stage. Michael says hello, by the way. I think he was surprised to discover that you and I had found each other online. Told him it was a small world, especially when it comes to blues.

I'm so excited to think I'll soon have an Earl Klatzel hanging in the house! I'm debating as to whether or not it will hang in the living room (which is really a studio/drum room) or if I'm going to be selfish and keep it in my office. A lot will depend on what my roommate says and how insistent he is that we both get to enjoy it. :) Also wanted to let you know that I showed my mom your website and she's intrigued by your work. She, too, is a very talented painter (she works in watercolors, acrylics, pastels, and pencil). I think you inspired her to get to work on Honeyboy again. Joanie

And I spent at least an hour just staring at the painting with my roommate. We're both in awe. It's wonderful, Earl. Thank you! Now we're going to get it properly framed and he's going to hang in the hall,

which is between music rooms and it's the first thing people will see when they walk in the house. Thank you! Joanie

-

Hi Joanie! Glad to hear you received the print and are now enjoying Honeyboy in your home. Love your response on receiving it. Thank you kindly. Sincerely, Earl

Hi Joanie! I hope all is well with you and your family. I would like to send you a little something in the mail out of appreciation for letting me use your Honeyboy photograph. Please let me know an address that I can use to send you my gift. Sincerely, Earl

-

Thank you so much, Earl! Lovin' the Robert Johnson! Thank you so much! I can't wait to get him framed and up on the wall. What a lovely, thoughtful gift! Can't wait to show him off! I hope the New Year brings good health to you and your family. Love, Joanie

09-----

Joanie Hunt wrote: **Honeyboy signed my print!** 2011

Earl, I wanted to let you know that I got Honeyboy to sign the painting! And you know what? He loved it. He couldn't believe 1) that anyone would take the time to paint him and 2) that I'd want to have the painting hanging in my home. And Michael Frank was impressed as well. He mentioned interest in getting a copy for Honeyboy, to which Honey said, "I do think I'd like that very much."

Also, Hubert Sumlin is now envious and says he's praying someone will paint him. I think that's a hint! Truly, everyone who saw the painting, and there were MANY people crowded into the green room, really loved what they saw. I've given your name and website info to as many as I could, but for Honeyboy and Michael, I think it might not be a bad idea for you to contact them directly. Just tell them I had passed along their interest in obtaining a painting, etc. As for Hubert, that's a hint I'd probably take. lol Hope you're doing well! Joanie

-

Hi Joanie! Wow, to have it signed is fantastic, you lucky devil, haha. I appreciate you showing everyone the print and I hope to hear from them in the future. I have a great photo of Hubert Sumlin that I was thinking of painting but have not pursued it yet. That's funny how this has come up, maybe I will do it next. Thank you for sending me a note on your encounters with these guys, I appreciate it dearly.

I am working on a large BB King portrait 40"x56" at the moment. I felt it was time I got around to finally doing his portrait. Sincerely, Earl

-

Believe it or not, I took the painting to San Diego with me solely to have it signed during the Blues at the

Crossroads: 100 Years of Robert Johnson concert. My mom, also an artist, loved the painting (I'd shown her your work online before, but seeing it in person was, of course, a different experience). This concert featured Honeyboy, Hubert, Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm (legends in the making...they are fantastic!) The four were beyond amazing.

I have to tell you, I fell hopelessly in love with Hubert Sumlin that night. First, I couldn't believe I was meeting him...then, we had this lovely conversation about a new artist he recorded with recently (he was so enthusiastic about her...as am I), and then, well, he was just so kind and funny! When I went up to say my goodnights, it was all I could do to keep from putting him into my pocket and running off with him. Lovely man. And he wears this little button that has a guitar pick with a line through it. The man refuses to use a pick! He plays so beautifully. Really one of a kind.

Can't wait to see your B.B. painting! I know it'll be great. I'm actually really excited that you have something in the works! Keep up the painting, Earl! We have so many great men and women who deserve to be immortalized in a beautiful portrait by you. Joanie

10-----

Dan Cultra wrote: **5th grade students questions on Blues Paintings** 2011

Greetings. My name is Dan Cultra and I am a 5th grade teacher outside of Chicago. My students and I just read a story about Mahalia Jackson and have been studying the blues. For an assignment, each of my students, or as a group, has to create a painting inspired by the blues. I was wondering if you could tell us what inspires your work? How do you come up with all of your ideas?

I found your site while searching 'paintings inspired by the blues'. Your site is great. Thanks for your time... Dan Cultra, Conrad Fischer Elementary School, 5th Grade Teacher.

-

Hi Dan, Thank you for your interest in my work! It's great to hear that there are educators in this world that are teaching students about some of the best music in the world. I'm flattered that you have contacted me about my inspirations and drive to paint Blues Music History.

I have been buying and collecting records (lp's) since the age of 13. Music has always been one of my major passions in life since I can remember, along with the art of drawing pictures. With Rock & Roll being the music of choice through my younger years, it always contained a certain essence from where it had derived. It didn't take long to learn that Rock & Roll was created from the Blues. As I matured over the years so did my taste in music, learning more and more about the roots of my favorite music and the influences of my favorite bands. It all just kept coming back to the early Delta Blues musicians. I soon began to listen to Delta Blues and knew I was hooked. The music was created not for entertainment or profit, but to release the feelings of a time in history. Blues music came from the heart, it revealed the souls of a people that needed to speak out but were held to the silence of the times.

Listening to Blues since an early age simply all added up over the years. I had absorbed all the feelings & moods from the music and was able to reflect it in my paintings. My biggest inspiration is the passion I

have for the music itself. Delta Blues influenced me so deeply that I wanted to visually document this treasure we hear, and to accurately portray its history using the real people, places and architecture of the times. My compositions & scenes are derived by using multiple photographs from the Library Of Congress, combined with extensive internet research for accuracy in styles, colors & signage.

I hope this letter answers your request for my means & passion for painting Blues Music. Thank you kindly. I'm glad you enjoyed my work. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Hi, Earl, Thanks for the reply! I shared your email with my students and they loved it! They loved hearing from a professional artist. They wanted to ask you some questions of their own. If you do not have the time to answer, we understand completely. They want to know...

1. How long does it take to make a painting?
2. How did you learn to draw and paint so well?
3. Who are some of your favorite artists?
4. What is your favorite painting or piece or artwork?

Thanks again for the communication. Dan Cultra

-

Hi Dan, It is nice to know that your students have shown such a kind interest in the music and painting that I have felt so passionate about myself. I hope my answers will be something they can apply to their own passions that will also help advance them in their own futures.

1) My paintings have varied from 3 days up to 3 months from start to finish. When starting a new painting I rarely take a day off until it is completed, averaging 8 hours daily. I only work on one painting at a time so I can give it my full attention and focus. It takes 3 - 5 days for the small impressionistic style paintings on masonite. My canvas portraits usually take 3 - 4 weeks & the large canvas history paintings can take from 2 to 3 months depending on their size and how much research needed within them. My process and application of paint is quite different on canvas over masonite which requires much more time. My unique under painting process along with a high detail drawing on my canvases gives me greater dimension and realistic results that most people have noticed when viewing my originals.

2) I think it is the passion I have within me to create a drawing or painting the best I can. With every new painting I attempt, I've always tried to exceed the one before it. One's self esteem and goals will have a lot to do with how far you push your artwork, and it subconsciously will reveal the artist's character, feelings and soul to the viewers. Even with everything I have learned about perspective, composition and color, I am still looking for new approaches that will give my work more dimension and reality about the past.

3) One of my biggest inspirations is Leonardo DaVinci. I have great admiration for many of the artists in the High Renaissance period. Others include Michelangelo, Raphael and Titian. It was a period when artwork showed no limits in the realism, meanings and quality to their amazing achievements that still cannot be equaled today.

4) This is the hardest question of all. There is so many paintings that fall into this category it would be impossible to answer. When one truly loves art they are effected by many on an equal basis. In my own portfolio, this is still the case. I am usually effected by an image or idea that somehow sparks within to want to create a painting or drawing. Each piece of work had a reason to be created....

I have attached a few of my "classical masters" paintings here that few have seen so you can see the diversity an artist can have. It is just one more side to my many different influences. I have also painted surrealism fantasy, landscapes, nude figure and abstracts. As a whole, I know my body of work tells a story of who I am, what I feel, and my influences in life. Thank you again, I appreciate your interest and dearly loved the fond experience I have received from you all. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Earl, Thank you for such thoughtful and insightful responses to our questions. My students loved hearing from you. We compared some of your attached photos to Da Vinci's. We studied Da Vinci earlier this year and the students really enjoyed learning about him, so it was fun so see you talk about him. Attached are some of the paintings my students created. We painted over the course of a few hours, and it was fun for my students to see that you create a painting over the course of several 8 hour days or months! Thanks for the communication. Dan Cultra, Conrad Fischer Elementary School, 5th Grade Teacher.

-

Hi Dan, Thank you for the review of your students paintings, they all show the early stages of creativity from which we all start as artists. Taking an idea or thought and transforming it into an understood image can be a very difficult task as we use a separate part of our brain to do this. The more we exercise this task the better we become as artists. Ones passion to create art will be the defining level one will achieve in making art, it all comes from your heart.

There was an interesting project that was given to us in the art college back in 1994. It consisted of picking any "masterpiece" from one of the great masters and recreate it as close as possible, but the catch was that we had to put some change into it that somehow would bring it to date. Of course I went with Leonardo DaVinci's only known self portrait, and the element I added to bring it to date was adding a pierced eyebrow with a beaded earring. My re-creation of Leonardo's self portrait reflected his eccentrics and character in our current day norms.

Thanks again for the interest you have all shown in my artwork, I appreciate it dearly. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

Earl Klatzel wrote: **"Give My Poor Heart Ease"** 2011

Dear Bill Ferris, I really would like to purchase your book "Give My Poor Heart Ease" and I was wondering if there was anyway to buy a copy directly through you. A signed copy by you would be a real treasure to me if this was at all possible. Your work has inspired me in my own work so I had to ask you. Please forgive me if I have over stepped any boundaries by asking you this favor.

James "Son" Thomas has always been one of my favorite delta blues musicians. Your films really capture the true Thomas and his music in a natural state of delta life. I'm not sure if you have ever seen my painting of Son Thomas so I have attached it here for you. I have always kept the original painting adorning my living room ever since it was created.

It was nice to contact you again and I look forward to your reply. Thank you kindly for your time.
Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Dear Earl, Thanks for your nice message with the impressive painting of Son Thomas. If you will send me your mailing address, I will be happy to send you an inscribed copy of my book. With all good wishes. Sincerely, Bill

William Ferris, Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 410 East Franklin Street, CB # 9127, Chapel Hill, NC.

-

Wow Bill, Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity, you have really made my day. I have been anxiously looking forward to reading your book, and getting an inscribed copy is truly remarkable. I will treasure it like I do the blues.

I really would like to send you a giclee print of my Son Thomas painting if you would accept. I would be honored if you accepted my print for the inspiration and knowledge I have gained through your work of the American South. Your work has branched itself into the passions of many. Thank you kindly, and it was a pleasure hearing from you. Sincerely, Earl

-

Dear Earl, Many thanks for your kind message. I will send you an inscribed copy of my book later today and would be thrilled to have a print of your Son Thomas painting. With all good wishes. Sincerely, Bill

-

Dear Bill, Wow, I have just received your book "Give My Poor Heart Ease". I want to thank you again for this special gift and for the heart warming inscription you have written in it to me. I truly look forward to the reading and will also enjoy the music disc's that are with it. It is a real treasure to have. Thank you kindly for all of your inspiring work that has helped me in my own goals in documenting Blues Music

History in the USA.

Just a quick update on the Son Thomas giclee print. Unfortunately I am still waiting on the printhouse to have the image produced, it is my top priority and it will be in the mail soon. Thank you. Your friend, Earl

-

Dear Earl, Your beautiful work arrived safely and is stunning. I am thrilled to have it and want you to know how grateful I am for your generous gift. You are an amazing artist. Sincerely, Bill

12-----

Cindy McLeod wrote: **Calgary Bluesfest 2011**

Hello Earl; Hope all is good with you. Just extending an invitation to you and Tammy to attend Calgary Bluesfest as my guests. Let me know if it fits your schedule and if so, which day(s) you'd like to attend so I can arrange it with Box Office. Talk to you soon! Cindy

Cindy McLeod - Producer - Calgary International Blues Festival www.calgarybluesfest.com Radio Host, The Blues Witness, CJSW 90.9FM www.cjsw.com

-

Hi Cindy! First of all I like to say great work on the Blues Witness, I've been enjoying the music. Really liked hearing Dutchy! nobody ever plays him.

I can't believe the Bluesfest is those dates. Tammy and I will be in the Bahamas. I'm so sorry we will miss out on your generous offer, I really appreciated what you were doing for me. Give me a heads up before the CJSW fundraiser, I want to give you some small giclee prints for incentives. Thanks again Cindy for the invitation to the Bluesfest, we're sorry we are losing out. Have a good one!! Sincerely, Earl

-

Hi Earl; Thank you so much for the kind words on the radio show Earl, it means the world to me coming from you. I'm with you about Dutch, I wish there were more of him but alas, there's only two CDs and both are in iffy shape but I'm gonna play 'em till they don't play no more!

What a GREAT excuse to miss Bluesfest! Good for you and Tammy! You will always be received as my guests, not to worry. We really appreciate what you've done for us, Earl, both at CJSW and Bluesfest. Your work is so special and so are you. Have a terrific holiday and hopefully we'll see you in the fall sometime. I'm not sure when the fundraiser is but thank you for your most kind offer, I'll happily take you up on it! Until then, Cindy

13-----

Abraham Lubelski wrote: **NYC Exhibition 2011**

Dear Earl Klatzel, I am pleased to inform you of an exciting opportunity to join a publicity program based in New York City as well as to exhibit your artwork in SoHo, New York City.

My name is Abraham Lubelski, the publisher of NY Arts Magazine, and owner of The Broadway Gallery NYC and Beijing Arts Space in China. Recently my staff came across your works while researching for upcoming projects, and by their recommendation I would like to invite you to join our publicity program that includes an exhibition in New York City in December 2011. I am interested in your work "BB King" and I believe it would be an important addition to our program. Your musician pictures are so full of life and so expressive of the musicians you are depicting, so touching works. By paying close attention to the intuitive works of each artist, we are hoping to construct an exhibition of works that truly speak to the viewer. Thank you, Abraham Lubelski, Publisher, NY Arts Magazine.

14-----

Ian Tiele wrote: **Re: New painting by artist Earl Klatzel : The Buddy Bolden Band 2012**

Earl, I received your email (below) and think that your painting may make a great cover for the IAJRC June 2012 Journal magazine. I would be willing to give your work some free publicity in the magazine. This year's IAJRC Convention is in New Orleans, so it would be a perfect fit. Let me know your thoughts on this. Ian Tiele, IAJRC Editor. International Association of Jazz Record Collectors. See Bluesworks LINKS-PRESS-PHOTOS pg. for images & write-up...

15-----

Wayne Rinehart wrote: **I would like to feature your art in our magazine! 2013**

Hello I am the editor and creator of www.Blues-E-News.com also known as BEN Magazine. Erwin Bossman told me about your work. My magazine is known for being artsy and eclectic. I am a musician and an artist my self so it is just natural for the magazine to be the same. My goal with the magazine is to bring a larger audience to blues bands that deserve the attention but for some reason keeps getting overlooked. I am also trying to feature photographers and artists work music related. I think it would be wonderful to feature your paintings in each magazine issue if you would be interested in sharing your talents. Let me know what you think.. Have a blessed week. Peace... Big Wayne senior editor Blues-E-News your partner in blues.

-

Hello Big Wayne! Thank you for contacting me. I would be delighted to have my work featured in your magazine. I went on-line and had a look at your website, very interesting with an appealing layout. Just let me know how you would like to proceed, and I will be happy to send you images for posting. Thank you again Wayne, and I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Glad to here it Earl, We are a small new independent publication out of California close to Sacramento

and San Francisco. WE have writers and readers from around the world! I am seeking several artists to feature one picture every issue. I hope to have about 3 to 4 artist in each issue. It will be a full page with your info and links to your site. Im doing the same with photographers.. No need for text just the picture... I will need hi rez photo of your picture and info you want published to go with it.. if there is a story to go with the picture then even better. but not necessary. You can just send the pics you want to share. all music related. Concerts, crowds, bands, artists, instruments, portraits, what ever. your work is amazing and glad to share your talents with our readers. Thank you!

16-----

Paul Stiles wrote: **Bluesworks by Earl - Introducing! The Robert Johnson Blues Park** 2014

Hi Earl, Thanks for the information on the Park – Sounds a great idea.

I'd like to mention this in our News section of April's Blues In Britain magazine together with a picture of the park. Would it be possible for you to send me hi-res versions (300dpi) of the entrance or the park layout (copies attached)? We are about to go to press, so a speedy reply would be appreciated. Many thanks, Paul Stiles, Editor www.bluesinbritain.org

-

Hi Paul, thank you for your interest. This is great news! I would be delighted... Earl

17-----

Robert C. DiMaio wrote: **Interview request** 2014

Dear Earl, The Artist Archive is interested in producing a short documentary on the body of your works. We are a not for profit film production organization presenting our films specifically for classroom use. Please review our film at: [Www.theartistarchive.org](http://www.theartistarchive.org) Thanks! Robert C. DiMaio, Director, The Artist Archive

-

Hi Robert, Yes I am interested. Could you please specify what you would need from me to create this short documentary? And how the interview will be attained from me? Thank you for your interest in my work, I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

We are interested in a statement from you and a CD of images. Can someone interview you? Send us the footage, and we will cut a film together. Please review previous statements for reference at www.theartistarchive.org Thanks, Robert

18-----

Jim Brewer wrote: **Grand Opening of Mississippi Music Museum, Hazlehurst, MS** 2014

On May 17th, the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame will open its second of three museums. The Mississippi Music Museum will open in Hazlehurst with a ribbon cutting at 10:00am and open house until 5:00pm. Our first museum has been open for 10 years at the Jackson Evers International Airport. These museums honor our great musicians and our state's musical heritage. The Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame in its 20 years of operation has been successful in bringing to the attention to the public that Mississippi is the birthplace of America's music. Dr. Jim Brewer, Founder and Chair, Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame

-

Hi Jim! this is great news!! congratulations to you. I wish I could be there for the opening.

I would like to offer you a Ltd. Ed. Canvas giclee of Robert Johnson for your Hazlehurst Museum as a gift. I know you have my John Lee Hooker giclee hanging in the Jackson Airport Museum... so maybe a Robert Johnson for your Hazlehurst museum? Congrats again Jim on your success... Sincerely, Earl

-

Thank you so much for your offer. A Robert Johnson canvas would be a welcome and valued addition to our museum. The canvas would be the center piece related to Robert. Thanks again for the gift, Jim

-

Hi Jim, I mailed the RJ canvas giclee donation yesterday. I have enhanced it in oils and it looks really good, it should display well. Please let me know that it arrives in good condition. Thanks Jim, Sincerely, Earl

-

Just got it in the mail. Looks great! Thanks so much for your donation. I will send you photo as soon as I get it mounted. Thanks again, Jim

-

Hi Jim, you are very welcome, I'm glad it arrived! Looking forward to seeing a photo of it displayed. Thanks, Earl

19-----

Adam Gussow wrote: **University of Mississippi professor wants to interview you** 2014

Dear Earl Klatzel: I'm a professor here at the University of Mississippi, teaching courses in American literature and blues culture. My current project is a book on the devil and the blues tradition. It's 4/5ths completed. The chapter I'm working on right now concerns "the crossroads" in Clarksdale--specifically, the way in which the city of Clarksdale, with the considerable help of Vic Barbieri's three-guitar sculpture, has managed to brand itself in the public mind as the home of "the" crossroads.

In the course of my research, I came across Les Barber's plan in 2008-2009 to create an impressive complex at the crossroads site. You seem to have been a key player in the whole episode. I gather that something went wrong at some point and the plan fell through. Although the main focus of my chapter is Vic's monument (i.e., the 1998-1999 period of time), I'm extremely interested in speaking with you about Les's plan. Cordially, Adam Gussow 2014 Adam Gussow, Associate Professor of English and Southern Studies, Undergraduate Advisor, Southern Studies Program. Department of English, University of Mississippi.

I just discovered the Robert Johnson park in Hazelhurst. I had no idea such a park was in the planning! Now I would urgently like to interview both you and Les Barber about your plans--which certainly merit a place in my book. many thanks in advance, Adam Gussow

-

Hi Adam, thank you for calling, it was very interesting talking with you today, I quite enjoyed discussing this topic with someone that has followed the blues so closely. I look forward to your book! Here is the summary for the two park projects:

The Robert Johnson Crossroads & Blues Legends Park, Clarksdale, MS

I was contacted by Les Barber CEO of the Crossroads Group LLC early 2008 about his idea of "The Robert Johnson Crossroads Park" at the old Hwy 61 & 49 intersection in Clarksdale. Saying he contacted me because he loved the way I can capture the true essence of those early times in all my paintings, and was hoping that I could translate that same feeling into a design for The RJ Crossroads & Blues Legends Park. My knowledge of blues music history and my artistic capability gave him the entire package he was looking for.

We were also welcomed by The Robert Johnson Blues Foundation (Steven Johnson) after I had contacted him in regards to donating a canvas print of my work to their museum. With that being accomplished, they learned of the RJ Park I was working on for Clarksdale, and showed great appreciation towards the project for keeping their grandfather's legacy alive. I must acknowledge that the Johnson family did state to me they do not believe any of the myths that surround his life, but understanding the circumstances gave their time & support with its promotion.

Les also planned on having a multi level Crossroads Hotel & Entertainment Complex situated beside the park that governed the entire block. I still have some of the press releases on the hotel complex, and all of my RJ Crossroads Park design is saved for reference.

The park construction was just about to break ground when the Financial Crisis struck and the Crossroads Group LLC began losing investors to the point of finally folding. Over the years Les and I have since promoted this crossroads park idea in hopes of new investors that also see the great importance of the RJ Park at the crossroads.

The Robert Johnson Blues Park, Hazlehurst, MS

Finally in 2013, Les Barber was contacted by Steven Johnson in regards to having the park built by the RJB through public contribution & funding. The conditions were that they wanted to build it in Chrystal Springs as the Robert Johnson Blues Park, right along side the RJB building. Les again contacted me for re-designing the park to fit into the new proposed property. The Crystal Springs property dimensions were way to small, very limited and unsuitable to fit a functioning park design, and would need to be relocating to a larger size property to be even possible.

I proposed a new idea to Les & Steven about building the park in Hazlehurst, being RJ's birth town only 8 miles away and much more significant to the cause. Thrilled with my idea, Steven Johnson approached the Mayor of Hazlehurst (Henry Banks) with the park idea, and to our surprise was greatly welcomed. After about a month, I was given three properties to choose from in Hazlehurst for picking the best suited property for the park. The old schoolyard lot (200' x 250') that sat completely empty was the ideal location & size for the new park design.

So starting from scratch, I incorporated everything I had learned from the first park design, and then spent 3 months on a new more precise RJ Park design that told the full story to his music. It reflects the 1930's era, the lifestyle of RJ, each song he created along the blues hwy, and the folklore that surrounded his short life. The overall curb appeal of the park reflects the style & grace of the bluesman, while a strong and masculine perimeter & grand entrance reflected its musical importance. The new park design was a complete success and gratefully accepted by Les and Steven as more then they ever imagined it could be. They felt it could easily stand as an international destination for blues fans around the world.

The planning of the International fundraising campaign was the main concern now, and after 3 months preparation it was getting very near to be announced on the Indiegogo website. I really don't know the specifics of what recently happened, but all I heard was the proposed park property was suddenly retracted by the schoolboard. So all has become quiet once again. That's the history of both park projects to date.

Thanks Adam, let me know if you have any questions. Sincerely, Earl

-

Thanks, Earl. That chronology is a huge help. I will make sure to credit you in the finished book. I'll also be looking at your art work as I evaluate cover art possibilities. best, Adam

20-----

Corinne Preteur wrote: **SOUL BAG MAGAZINE, France** 2020

I love your paintings, and I would be delighted to promote your work of art in our magazine. If we use one of your paintings, such as the cover of Soul Bag for example, what will be the condition? Earl, your talent deserves an exhibition in Paris, and certainly in a Blues/Jazz Festival such as Vienne, Nice, Marciac, Cahors, Crissier, Montreux... I copy our editor in chief Nicolas Teurnier who can have more ideas... Let's keep in touch... All best, Corinne Preteur SOUL BAG MAGAZINE, France www.SoulBag.fr

-

Hi Corinne & Nicolas, thank you for contacting me! and thank you for your interest. I would be honored to have you use one or more of my paintings for your cover or an editorial. All I would ask for is acknowledgement and three copies of the magazine for my own promotional use. I would be very proud to show my work on or in Soul Bag Magazine.

As for exhibiting my work in Paris etc... I do not have the funds for crating & shipping my work to Europe. I have been invited to many Blues Festivals in Germany & England to show my work, but shipping costs are outrageous for large paintings. Thank you again Corinne for contacting me, I appreciate your support. Sincerely, Earl

21-----

Hudson Payer wrote: **Paintings for Buddy Guy Feature Documentary 2020**

Hello Earl, I'm a producer at Scheme Engine <<http://schemeengine.com/>>, a New York City/LA-based production company. We are currently producing a feature-length documentary on the life and career of Chicago blues legend Buddy Guy for PBS' American Masters series, airing in February 2021, as part of PBS' Black History Month programming. Naturally, the film will also tell the larger story of blues music through Buddy's lens.

The Director of our film noticed a poster of your work while in Chicago this past weekend. He is interested in featuring your work in the film, to add to the telling of Buddy's story. I'd like to connect regarding possible licensing, and associated costs, if you're willing. Thank you, in advance, for any assistance that you can provide. Hudson Payer, Associate Producer | Scheme Engine
www.schemeengine.com

-

Hello Hudson, thank you for contacting me. This is quite an inspiring offer and is very much appreciated. How many of my paintings were you thinking of using, and what format were you looking to receive the images? I would also need to know which paintings (images) you were interested in beforehand as I have some copyright obligations on photographs I have used. All of the blues history paintings I've done are under my own copyright and are available with my permission to use, and some of my famous blues portraits as well. Please send me a time and day to call you, so we can discuss all what is involved. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank You. Earl Klatzel, Bluesworks by Earl

-

Ahead of our call, these are our artists of interest from your Blues Musicians Gallery: Buddy Bolden Band, Hubert Sumlin, BB King, Otis Spann, James 'Son' Thomas, Koko Taylor, John Lee Hooker, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Buddy Guy, Robert Johnson, Albert King, Sonny Boy Williamson, Eric Clapton, Albert Collins, Jimi Hendrix, Willie Dixon, Jimmy Page, Muddy Waters. Thanks, Hudson Payer, Associate Producer | Scheme Engine

Hi Earl, Apologies for the delay. We are still in the process of reviewing your remarkable images. I'm awaiting a call with the director to firm up the next steps. Thanks, Hudson Payer, Associate Producer | Scheme Engine

Can you explain the "painting reproduction rights granted by photographer"? Hudson Payer

-

Hi Hudson, On certain portrait paintings I have contacted the photographers and have been granted the right to show and make reproduction prints copyright free and with no fees. Only 2 portrait paintings I've done have a preset fee payable on every print I sell.

Unless it's a rare photograph like Robert Johnson or Charley Patton, any golden oldie, my paintings become quite generic. I use multiple photo's in some portraits in order to reflect the musicians character & music sound, as you can see with the BB King photo reference I just sent you. I have never projected any photo image onto a canvas, so no painting of mine will ever align to its photograph. My paintings are all drawn & painted through hand eye coordination, which gives them natural movement and life within my mark making. Painting famous people from photo's is really foggy about copyrights. It all comes down to doing the right thing and giving credit where it's due, which I do in every possible case... Thanks, Earl

-

Hi Earl, The cut is still long, but we are getting close to having a sense of the specific paintings of yours we'd like to feature. I'd like to introduce you to our Archival Producer Risé Sanders Weir. She will be able to give you more information and will handle the licensing details. Thanks, Hudson Payer, Associate Producer | Scheme Engine

Earl, Nice to meet you. Devin told me about your paintings earlier in the process, but it wasn't until I saw the first cut of the film that I finally actually saw your paintings. They are amazing! And I'm so glad that Devin connected with you to add them to the film. As Hudson mentioned, the current cut of the film is about 10% too long. They are working to bring it down, but we feel fairly confident that we are in the ballpark of how many of your paintings the creative team wants to use. We are planning to lock the cut by the end of the year, but it would be great to have all the details ironed out with you and only awaiting the final number of images used. I am attaching a proposed license agreement for you to take a look at. Let me know if you have questions or concerns. Risé Sanders-Weir, Producer | Archival | Scheme Engine

-

Hi Hudson, thanks for putting me in contact with Rise.

You never mentioned Devin Chanda was a Director, only that he had seen my Bluesworks promo posters at Buddy Guys house, which sparked Scheme Engine to contact me. If you send me a mailing address, I will send you and Devin a set of my promo posters for your office. They are the same posters as Devin saw at Buddy Guy's house. Thanks, Earl

-

Thank you to all the Scheme Engine directors and staff involved in the making of this PBS American Masters documentary of Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase The Blues Away.

Wow! was all I felt after seeing the amazing work you all have done in the making of this film. The film blew me away. Having a contributing part to aid Buddy Guy in telling this legacy, I have no words that could express the visual story you built using my artwork. It was a chance of a lifetime for me, and truly an honor to be part of your creation on keeping alive the history of the blues. Your incorporation and techniques on showing my blues history paintings was artwork in itself, and I will always be grateful for your talents. Thank you.

I want to thank Devin Chanda, Buddy Guy and Scheme Engine Productions for their amazing work in creating this documentary film Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase The Blues Away. Never had I expected to see such a touching life story than the one Buddy Guy lived. You all did such an amazing job in capturing and holding the viewers interest throughout the entire film. Thank you. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel, Bluesworks by Earl.

See Bluesworks LINKS-PRESS-PHOTOS pg. for images & write-up...

22-----

Holger Petersen wrote: **Re: PBS Buddy Guy Blues Documentary 2021**

Hi Earl, That's great news and a real tribute to your wonderful work. I'll be mentioning it on my CKUA show as we get close to the air date. Are you still based in Calgary? Very best, Holger

-

Hello Holger! so nice to hear from you. Yes, I feel very fortunate indeed to get this opportunity with Buddy Guy. It is yet another pinnacle forfeited to me as an artist. Thank you so much for contacting me Holger, I am honored to hear from you, we listen to your CKUA and your CBC shows every Sat, and never miss Cam Hayden on Friday nights. I appreciate your generous offer to mention the documentary. All the best to you Holger, Sincerely, Earl

Hello Holger! I want to thank you dearly for the mention on today's Natural Blues, I'm very appreciative. It was a fantastic interview with Christone "Kingfish" Ingram. This was a special show for me all around. Thank you, Earl

-

So glad you heard it. My pleasure Earl. Great to see you getting recognition with the Buddy Guy doc. Looking forward to seeing your paintings in it. Very best, Holger

23-----

Earl Klatzel wrote: **in regards to Shemekia Copeland 2022**

Hi Beverly! How nice that our paths cross again! I was so glad to see your name attached to Shemekia's website, and remembered how nice it was to talk with you. If you don't quite remember me, which I think you do still being on my mailing list. You relayed Tommy Shannon & Chris Layton T-shirts with the painting I did of Stevie Ray Vaughan printed on them. I think that was in 2006. Which then lead to Chris Layton to phone me at home from Austin, Texas about ordering 20 cloth prints. Chris's wife Betty was creating designer pillows for the Vaughan family and all of the SRV band members, and they wanting my Stevie image as the centerpiece of the pillows. Anyway, that honor was a special highlight in my career.

But my reason for contacting you this time, is to find a way I can send Shemekia a gracious thank you note for the personal favor she did for me at the 2006 Buddy Guy / Shemekia Copeland concert in Calgary. If it wasn't for Shemekia's friendly personality and good will, my paintings would have never aided Buddy Guy in telling his life story in the 2021 documentary: **"The Blues Chase The Blues Away"**. It's really quite fascinating how Shemekia's generous favor set a path for this opportunity of a lifetime, 14 years later. My question to you is.... would it be possible for you to forward a thank you note to Shemekia from me? If so, I will write one and send it to you.

But I'd still like to tell you the sequence of events that lead to my blues paintings being picked for the movie. Below...

In 2006 the Calgary Convention Center billed Buddy Guy with Shemekia Copeland as the opener. My wife Tammy & I knew of Shemekia Copeland's music since the 90's, and well aware of her dad Johnny. The Convention Center arranged the concert hall with a cash bar, and many large round tables that sat at least 12 people at each. Being our 2nd time to a Buddy Guy concert, Tammy & I decided to sit at the back of the hall and enjoy the music from afar. Our back table stayed nearly empty which gave us plenty of room. I had brought along a set of my Bluesworks promo posters in case there was a chance of giving them to Buddy. They promote my Blues Personalities series, and my Blues History series.

So before the concert started, I approached a tall security person beside the stage guarding the backstage access. I asked him if there was anyway I could give the posters to Buddy Guy, in which he replied no. I then asked him if he would give them to Buddy Guy for me, in which he again replied no. So returning to the table disappointed, I tossed them onto the table right where we sat.

Shemekia and her band came out and played a one hour set, and they totally blew us away. Her entire performance was nothing like her albums sounded, but more like a 60's psychedelic concert where all the songs merged together like one long tune. It was truly amazing to hear. Well after her set was done, Shemekia came to the back of the hall to autograph CD's for the public. We were so inspired to meet her after hearing the amazing psychedelic trip she had just taken us on, and lucky we were the first fans to walk up and meet her. (pic attached) As we picked out a CD for her to sign for us, we chatted with her for a few minutes before realizing that nobody was lining up to meet her. Whether it was because nobody noticed she was there, or that she was not as well known at that time, we were not quite sure. But we took the great opportunity to continue our conversation with her a while longer. Well after 5 minutes or so, a couple of girls walked up to also meet Shemekia, so we thanked her dearly for the conversation. Shemekia quickly asked us where we were sitting and I pointed to the

big empty table right beside the sales booth. She asked if she could join us to watch the Buddy Guy performance, to which we were more than delighted.

Within five minutes Shemekia joined us while they set-up the stage for Buddy's band. I had totally forgotten about my promo posters on the table sitting in front of us until they caught Shemekia's eye. She leaned forward with great interest and asked what they were, to which I replied that they were my promo posters that I hoped in giving to Buddy Guy. I explained to her that I was an artist who painted blues personalities & blues history. And then mentioned that I had no luck with getting them past the security guard at the stage. Shemekia quickly responded by saying, "I'll do it for you, I'll hand them to Buddy myself ", and off she went backstage.

Shemekia soon returned to the table after a few minutes and said she gave them directly to Buddy. We then proceeded to enjoy the entire Buddy Guy concert in her company. It was such an honor.

After the concert I never thought about the promo posters again, I knew that Shemekia had given them to Buddy, but I really didn't know if he kept them or left them behind. It was just something I'd never know.

So now jumping ahead 14 years to 2020, I get a call from Scheme Engine productions out of NY & LA, by an associate producer Hudson Payer. He asked about the use of my paintings in a PBS documentary about Buddy Guy's life story. I was absolutely overwhelmed by the opportunity and agreed to their amazing offer. I asked how they had found out about my work, in which Hudson said that it was at the film director's request, Devin Chanda. He added that Devin had seen my work while filming Buddy at his cabin for the documentary. So putting two and two together, I then realized that the promo posters that Shemekia had relayed to him for me in 2006, Buddy had kept them all those years. It was a very proud moment for me, and another pinnacle in my career as an blues history artist. And since covid had stopped Scheme Engine from filming in many places they had planned, they found that my paintings were the perfect way to tell his story by mirroring his life with my blues history paintings.

I got nothing but the highest admiration for my work by all the Scheme Engine team, and felt truly honored during the entire 6 months I had worked with them. So now I've finally had the time to try and reach out to Shemekia to thank her for her wonderful support. But as you know with trying to contact our precious musicians, easier said than done.

Thanks Beverly! I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Earl Klatzel

-

Hi Earl, Of course I remember you, and your fabulous art; it's nice to hear from you! It was my pleasure to pass your teeshirts on to Tommy and Chris, and I'm delighted to hear Chris ordered some more items from you! I'm still with Tommy – 27 years now!! He's retired but I help him with mail, social media and other little projects here and there. He's one of my dearest friends so it really isn't work. I would be happy to forward your letter to Shemekia's personal email address, where I know she'll receive it. Just send whatever you'd like her to have and I'll make sure she receives it. All the best to you

and Tammy, Beverly

-

Hi Beverly, How fantastic, it's so nice to connect with you again! So glad to hear Tommy and you are still close as ever, and it sounds like you're enjoying your work too. I admire you for the amazing personalities you've surrounded yourself with, it's truly wonderful. Helping me get a thank you letter to Shemekia really means a lot to me Beverly. I really didn't think there was a way to get it to her, so I thank you so much. I have it written and I'll send it to you next. Thank you again dear, I appreciate you so much. Sincerely, Earl

-

Hi Earl, I've forwarded your letter to Shemekia and the next time we speak on the phone I'll doublecheck to make sure she received it.

Outside of Shemekia and Tommy, I've pretty much retired --and resigned from my other clients. 35 years of working with the best Bluesmen and Blueswomen has been a blessing beyond words. When I think back to having the honor of working with Luther Allison, Jonny Lang, Koko Taylor, Eddy Clearwater, Clifford Antone, Ronnie Brooks and others I feel like I have to pinch myself to make sure it wasn't a dream! I know you've been doing your thing for a long time as well – glad we travelled down the blues highway together. 😊 Blessings to you and yours, Bev.

Just a quick PS... I know Shemekia has received your note. I added a short comment about something unrelated above it, and she replied to me. 😊 Bev.

-

Thanks Bev! That is an amazing line-up of clients. Your achievements are so impressive. I know exactly what you mean by having to pinch oneself after being blessed with a career that is somewhat unreal. Some of the special highlights of my career after the Tommy & Chris communication was meeting with Honey Boy Edwards and sitting down talking with him for half an hour, he was so candid with me. We really hit it off.

Or sitting at the head table with the late Sam Lay at the Calgary Blues Society Banquet was an honor. They commissioned me to do his portrait at the last minute for his 80th birthday that evening. I was sorry that it had to be a graphite portrait having only 2 days. My oil portraits usually take 2-3 weeks.

But getting a call from Steven Johnson in 2011 to design "The Robert Johnson Blues Park" in Mississippi for the family was one of those projects that I had to pinch myself. The honor to do such a prestige landmark was phenomenal, and I've been working with the Johnsons since 2011.

The design was loved and approved by the Johnsons & the Hazlehurst town council. But many complications arose because we were missing the right people at the top to get it off the ground. But just recently I found a new project manager here in Calgary that seems to be the right person for the job. So I have my fingers crossed. Painting blues history has been an amazing journey.

I got your last update here that Shemekia had received the letter, thank you so much for all your help Bev. You are a good friend. All the best to you and yours, Earl
