



Old Florida Celebration of the Arts Fine Arts Festival

PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:

Amy Gernhardt - OFCA Coordinator

cedarkeyartsfestival@gmail.com

(352) 543-5400

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ernest M. Lee - Featured Artist at the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts Festival

At a young age in Virginia, Ernest was hit by a car causing seizures. His mom, as a military wife, felt ill-equipped to care for him. His grandmother began raising him at her home in North Carolina. She encouraged him continuously in his artistry gift. He tried to get better every day until one



evening he felt he had gotten a drawing right. His enjoyment of learning history in school led him to draw Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. as some of his very first pieces. After high school, Ernest wanted to join the military and see the world, but Grandma said art school was where he should

focus his efforts, even though money struggles only allowed him enough to attend for 2 years.

Ernest has won several prestigious awards including twice the Best of Show, Gainesville 5th Avenue Festival, the Award of Excellence in Cedar Key, which is one of his favorite shows. Additionally, he has won awards in the Longwood Art Show, been the Featured Artist in Pine Castle (Orlando), won the Matheson Museum Art Contest, and the Stetson Kennedy Fellowman, Mother Earth Award.

Ernest is currently teaching art in a charter school in Gainesville, as he has done in Apalachicola and other schools in Florida. He teaches the children different techniques and helps them learn how to express themselves through their paintings. Some of their recent paintings were featured in a local paper in Gainesville.

Ernest feels honored when people share their family history with him and ask him to preserve their memories through his painting. He strives to include all the important details in the painting and capture everything in the painting that they have shared with him. Many of his paintings include old country homes and churches.

Ernest enjoys painting Florida's waterways which is represented in the painting "Grandpa and Me". His grandpa often gave Ernest history lessons and in this painting, you can almost hear his Grandpa saying to his grandson, "Tell me what you know about Cedar Key..." as together, they admire the beautiful golden sky, with warm orange waters.

Written by: Charmon@bellsouth.net