

James "Jimi K" Keast

Painter - Petoskey, MI

Born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I was brought up in a large, musical, artistic family. As a child I remember being entertained by their music or I would be busy creating art with them. Additional family activities included hiking, fishing and camping.

I love other people and their cultures, so I think you can see influences of that and nature reflected in some of my art. While I love creating nature scenes, I also have a whimsical side that allows people to wander through my imaginative worlds. I enjoy working in a number of mediums including oils, watercolors, ink, pencils and clays.

For me, art isn't a hobby. Art is a creative journey, a tool to express myself. The art is done for myself first, but it's an honor if people get enjoyment from an image that I've produced. I love nothing more than to see people's reactions to a piece I've completed.

My working process starts by making sketches. After coming up with a sketch I am happy with, I work to define it, either by adding to it or by taking things away from it. When I am happy with the final sketch, I decide what medium I want to use. Often times the sketch screams out what it wants to become, while other times I need to give it additional thought. Once the medium is determined, the real fun begins. I do not see the process as work, although it takes hours of sketching, drawing and painting to finalize a piece. For me, the years I have put into my artwork are ongoing learning sessions and every piece I create I learn something new.

Other than attending a few art classes in high school and one college level course, I am self-taught. I have learned so much by reading, studying the old masters, teaching and by not being afraid to experiment with materials and images. As I continue to learn new ways to manipulate mediums, I grow as an artisan and reduce the chance of stagnation.

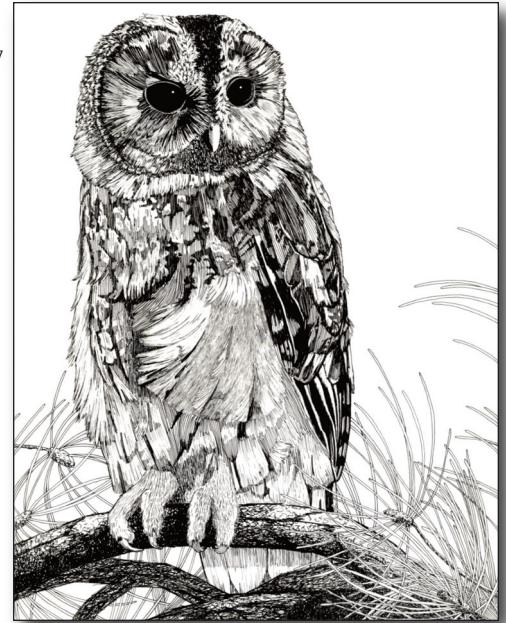
For 20 years I have worked both professionally as a commercial artist and as an instructor in Southern California, teaching all levels of artists. My work has sold throughout the United States, Great Britain and Canada. A number of my pieces have been accepted into juried shows, numerous galleries and have taken several awards.

If you would like to see additional original paintings, prints or notecards available for purchase, please feel free to contact me.

Peace,
Jimi K

To contact James Keast,
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Barred Owl



*Chick-a-dee
With Pussy Willows*



Birches

