



Kerry Butler

Featured Artist at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHY RUKSANA HUSSAIN

When you visit Buckhead's own Blue Heron Nature Preserve (BHNP) this month, you'll find beautiful scenes painted by local artist Kerry Brown adorning the walls of the gallery. The featured artist this quarter, Brown is pleasantly surprised with the attention his work has attracted at the gallery. A mutual friend connected him with the staff at BHNP and next thing he knew – 14 paintings with animal themes were hand-picked for a three-month exhibition at the BHNP Art Gallery.

These are watercolor, gouache and acrylic paintings, and they are available for sale, both framed and unframed.

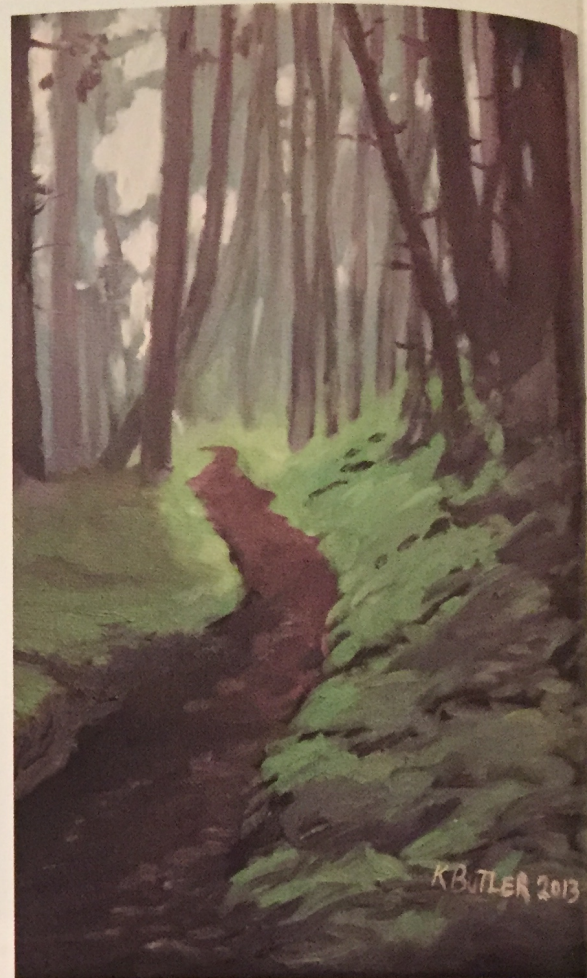
"I have more than 300 paintings done over the last 4-5 years," he shares. "Landscapes, animals...I did about 50 watercolors and now I am doing oil canvasses." A self-taught painter, Brown entertains appointments at home to see his work but does not exhibit anywhere else at the moment.

"I have no website, no business...I am only interested in painting!" His other interest, and sometimes his distraction, is gardening

and bonsais. A part-time staff member of the Richards Variety Store on Peachtree Battle, 64-year-old Kerry was happy with the crowd that turned up at the opening reception at BHNP. While he does not teach any classes, he is hoping to have his work exhibited at a few more venues.

Brown's work is colorful, moody and attempts to represent the splendor of nature. His use of light and shadow is impressive. Born in Brooklyn, Brown has been painting since he was a 6 year old. He worked in New York as a commercial artist in the 70s and 80s but moved to Atlanta just after the Olympics. Now retired and living in the Peachtree Hills neighborhood, he devotes his time to daily painting, observing nature and spending time with family, who all call Georgia home.

Brown paints a wide range of subjects – everything from scenery, sunsets and cloud formations to horses, windmills and flowers. Other than courses in etching and lithography, he has no formal training in painting or arts. His pieces start from less



than \$100 for a smaller painting to a few hundred dollars for larger ones. He does admit finding reasonably priced art in the city is daunting and he'd like to cater to that audience. Most of the paintings on display at BHNP are very well-priced and are a versatile size that you can prop up on a table or hang up on the wall.

The work is displayed at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve's Art Gallery located on a 25-acre natural wilderness just off busy Roswell Road. The gallery is a non-profit space dedicated to exhibiting work with an environmental thread. The small but exquisite exhibition is hosted in a beautiful architectural space.

BHNP shows work on a quarterly basis to provide a lens for people to see the very close connection between art and nature. If you are interested in exhibiting your work or know someone who would be, contact the BHNP curator, Diane Evans at dceart1@aol.com or 404.626.1891. To schedule a private viewing, call the BHNP Office at 404.345.1008.