

James W. (Jim) Sanders

From an early age I loved to draw. My fifth grade teacher urged me to enter an art competition sponsored by Woodmen of the World – and I won first place. When I was growing up, the local school curriculum did not include art instruction, so I took one-night-a-week art classes during my Seventh Grade year. In my Senior Year in Wallace-Rose Hill High School, I produced a charcoal portrait of our Principal, Mr. Byron Teachey, as a Beta Club project. A recruiter saw it, and steered me to East Carolina University, where I eventually earned a Degree in Art.

My working years have included U.S. Air Force illustrator, Community College Art instructor, Advertising Agency Art Director, and 24 years as an illustrator/graphic designer with CP&L/Progress Energy.

I became fond of colored pencil art many years ago. In the late 1990s, I started getting together with a few like-minded artists to share our colored pencil artwork and techniques. This early group eventually became chartered as the Raleigh-Durham chapter of the Colored Pencil Society of America.

I am “artist in residence” for the Association of Oldtime Barbell & Strongmen in New York, and since 1986, I have done over 72 portraits of their honorees, each of whom have been presented with my work at an annual meeting. I’ve also done drawings of over 50 old-time Western movie stars for the Western Film Preservation Society in Raleigh. A video featuring some of my Western movie star portraits was featured in a May 2012 issue of the Society’s newsletter, Reel Cowboy.

My artwork can be found in several museums including the Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports at the University of Texas at Austin and the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, in association with the Smithsonian Institute. Also, two of my commissioned portraits hang at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington DC.

Since retirement, I have been busy with commissioned portraits and teaching colored pencil art classes in Cary for the past 14 years, as we as in Garner. My rotating class schedules and more examples of my art can be found on our chapter’s website at <https://www.dc114cpsa.org/>

Jim