



Featuring the Art of Mel Green

Time and tide have unique ways of creating new perspectives on our lives and life's journeys, and the routes they take. This is especially true in the life of artist Mel Green, an internationally known abstract artist. Melvin Green was born during the height of the Great Depression to Whitaker and Sarah Green in the Jenkins Community of Beaufort County. Born into a large extended family with limited job opportunities and his love of drawing to pass the time, Mel left the Lowcountry after graduating from Robert Smalls High School and joined the army in 1953.

While sightseeing in Europe during military leave, Melvin explored the ravaged countryside and was fully cognizant of his own struggle of poverty and racism back home. He was equally frustrated with the denial of his civil rights and equal access to opportunities in the United States. Melvin expanded his myopic view of the world through a kaleidoscope of lenses to see how oppressed people were caught up in what he called, throughout his life and work, "The Struggle." There in Europe, he took an interest in oil painting, and almost like an illusionist trying to manipulate a marionette – and expose the deeper and hidden meanings of life and his quest to follow his heart – Mel put oil to canvas and began painting quietly and seriously. With a keen hunter's eyesight and calibrated steady hand, Mel set out to chart a new course for his life, submitting his instincts to pursue his passion of abstract painting.

Upon his honorable discharge from the army in 1955, he moved to New York to study art. While

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Written by Editor

Tuesday, 24 May 2011 15:20 - Last Updated Wednesday, 25 May 2011 08:03



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