

Jesse Hummingbird: Bisbee, Arizona

Cherokee

Paintings



Jesse is a tribal member of the Cherokee Nation. He was raised in the southeastern part of the country; in South Carolina as a young child and in Tennessee where he graduated high school. He maintained his bond with the heart of Cherokee country by spending summers with his grandmother in and around Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

He attended college at the University of Tennessee, majoring in art, and later continued his studies at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. He still takes print classes at Cochise Community College. As an adult, he has lived in several sections of the country, establishing himself as a successful printer, graphic artist and commercial illustrator. He has been a full-time artist since 1983, pursuing both Cherokee and American Indian themes with his own unique interpretation, style and “mythology.” He has been an active member of several American Indian artist associations and market boards.

In 2000, Jesse was commissioned by the new Indian Motorcycle Company to paint one of his characters on their new Indian motorcycle. Jesse’s work has been exhibited in a private collection exhibit in Taiwan and reproduced in several books. Jesse’s work was shown in a one-man show at the Brauer Museum of Art on the campus of Valparaiso University in Indiana and he was the featured artist at their Native American Festival in October 2004.

Jesse has won top awards for his paintings at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, The Heard Museum, Pueblo Grande Museum and the Santa Fe Indian Art Market. He was awarded 2nd Place - Painting at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s 2004 Indian Market. He and his wife Sandy have also published four activity/coloring books for children with the Book Publishing Company of Summertown, Tennessee. Jesse was awarded 2nd Place - Easel Art at the Tesoro Cultural Center’s 2007 Indian Market & Powwow.

