



Robert Goodlett Best 2D 2021

## 2021 Best 2D Artist Returns to the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts

Last spring, when Robert Goodlett decided to return to the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts, he was surprised and honored when he was named Best 2D Artist of the show. This was no surprise however to locals who had been enjoying his paintings at the Cedar Keyhole Artist Co-op for the past decade nor to coordinators who are delighted to welcome him back to the 2022 event, April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Cedar Key.

Robert's interest in art began at an early age when a brand-new library wing opened at his elementary school with new enchanting picture books that he enjoyed and his mother, who was an artist herself, began sharing the tools of her trade with him. Later, confined to bed with mononucleosis at nine, his mother provided him with pastels, charcoals and sketch pads to help the days pass. Many of these early lessons are still with him today.

"Originally, my work was very detailed and representational which I found very boring." He then began to remove detail and distill the images down to only what was needed to make it work — simplicity, nothing more, nothing less. He says that "this results in a more abstract, archetypal image that sticks in your brain."

Robert Goodlett believes the haunting quality in his work was inspired almost thirty years ago when he first saw the work of Hudson River School painter, George Inness. "His use of dramatic light and stark imagery hit me like a Mack truck," and introduced him to the idea that simplicity, mood and atmosphere are far more important than accuracy. Robert says "the iconic and nostalgic structures of rural America are never better represented than in a simple farm house or barn." He considers Slovakian painter, Tibor Nagy, who also blurs the lines of abstract and reality with bold, confident brush strokes and shards of thick luxurious oil paint slashed on with a palette knife as his favorite artist. "I could look at his paintings all day."

Any many art enthusiasts say the same about Robert Goodlett's work.

Join Robert and nearly 100 other talented artists who were invited to attend the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Florida Celebration of the Arts, April 9 (10-5) and April 10 (10-4). Bob will be in Booth # 41. More information about the event can be found at [www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com](http://www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com).

Article by Eleanor Miller