

MICHAEL HORNER

Michael (“Mike”) Horner, artist, musician/percussionist, hair stylist, amateur golfer, philanthropist, creative spirit has painted works of art for more than half a century. He got his start at age 7 when he began drawing for his own pleasure, a talent quickly recognized by family, friends and neighbors who began requesting portraits and pieces of his art. Mike’s talent eventually lead to acceptance at the prestigious and highly competitive Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan at 19. This was during the Vietnam War and due to family obligations he was not able to take advantage of the opportunity. He remained close to home helping out when an older brother was drafted. Nonetheless, Mike honed his skills on his own by immersing himself in painting, drawing creativity and artistic expression from the fabric of daily life.

Myriad family and life experiences have shaped him as an artist. He is one of 12 children raised by a loving widowed mother on Detroit’s eastside following his father’s untimely death. Prolific with acrylic, charcoal, pastels and mixed medium, he stopped painting for five years after his brother’s murder on the streets of Detroit...the same brother who had survived a tour of duty in Vietnam. Family members surprised and encouraged Mike with blank canvases of all sizes knowing he would not resist releasing his feelings and telling his story through his craft.

As a fine artist he has worked under the guidance of his mentor and world-renowned artist, Charles W. McGee. Mr. Horner’s work is collected by Russell Simmons, George N’ Namdi, Gilda Snowden, William Foster, Dr. George Evans, and Dr. Arthur Baurie.

Multi-talented, Mike has traveled the globe competing as a hair stylist in hair design events, including “Hair Wars”. Several Michigan winters have found him playing in amateur golf tournaments in Florida, often returning with both a trophy and paintbrush in hand. A generous giver to those who deserve but don’t always receive outward displays of appreciation, Mike has bestowed an unexpected “Thank You” on many occasions. Most recently, he voluntarily spent three days at the St John Macomb Rehabilitation Center painting an “inspiring” 8’ x 4’ mural on the wall of the physical therapy room. When Detroit Police Department Officer Brian Huff was killed in the line of duty, Mike was moved to paint Officer Huff’s portrait that he donated to the Huff family. Soon after, Mike was touched by the senseless killing of Livonia Police Officer, Larry Nehasil rendering his likeness on canvas and donating it to Mrs. Linda Nehasil with a canvas print given to the Livonia Police Department.