



Tennessee State University
Avon Williams Campus Library

Wilson Lee, Jr.

Wilson Lee, Jr., a native of Greenville, Mississippi received early inspiration from his parents who worked in the Mississippi Delta as furniture refinishers.

As a woodcarver growing up during the Civil Rights Era, he used art to reflect the sentiment of the world around him. A turning point in his career came after winning first place in his high school competition at T.L. Weston High school in Greenville. After much publicity, he soon realized that he wanted the world to see his art.

Some of his early lifelong dreams were realized in Chicago at the Black Expo, and the American Folk Life Festival, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, and the World's Fair in New Orleans. According to Lee, art provides balance, and he has shown his work extensively at colleges, universities, churches, and art and musical festivals.

Religious and justice themes permeate throughout most of his works including: Mississippi Blues, I Know The Lord He Heard My Cry, Justice, The Struggle Goes On, Salute to Civil Rights, Tree of Eternal Life, Holy Father, Praise with Drum, Mojo Blues, Morality and Law, and Gumbo People.

Lee received a Bachelor's degree in Social Science from Mississippi Valley State University, a Master's in Public Affairs from Kentucky State University, and a Masters of Arts in Teaching (Sociology) from Grambling State University. He is currently working on a Doctorate in Educational Administration from TSU.

Currently employed as Director of Student Support Services for Adult and Distance Learners, Wilson continues to develop and enhance his style. "Each chapter in my life tells a story of my career and the work produced during that period."