



Walk to Freedom

A solo exhibit featuring Bill Brown

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Opening Reception Friday December 2nd 7-9pm

Come and explore the worlds captured on canvas by our own board member Bill Brown in his first solo exhibit. Step into Louisiana history and explore the rich vibrant landscapes that erupt on his canvas.

704-889-2434

316 Main Street, Pineville, NC 28134

www.ccacpineville.org



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December 2nd 7 – 9 PM
Civic and Cultural Arts Center
316 Main Street, Pineville, NC



Bio

Bill Brown was born Willie James Brown in Newellton, LA in the late 1940's. He was raised by his mother, Cora Mae, and his grandfather, John. Both worked as sharecroppers and taught Bill early on the meaning of hard work and sacrifice. Bill was raised alongside 4 siblings whom he remains close to today.

Bill was drafted by the United States Army shortly after high school. He spent 2 years fighting in Vietnam before being honorably discharged due to injury. Bill then moved to California where he would spend the next 25 years. During this time Bill became the proud father to 2 daughters and a son.

Bill then moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where he resides to this day. It was here that he discovered his talent and love for painting. He credits his introduction to art through artist Lee Baumgarten as the catalyst for the development of his work. Bill started painting 4 years ago and hasn't stopped since.

This collection showcases the struggles, triumphs and beauty of the time he spent as a boy in Newellton. It is a celebration of his success and an acknowledgment of those who came before him. These works come from his heart and it is his hope that they will reach yours.

"When I was young, I was fascinated by the scenery of Louisiana and the Mississippi River in particular. I used to walk along the river, the lakes and bayous of our parish in quiet contemplation. For me, the river represented freedom. I watched the boats and ships waft through the water. I drank in sunsets and sunrises and the yellows, oranges and browns of the trees. As I stood there alone, I could feel freedom calling from the river."

My grandfather liked to talk about freedom. He used to tell me that freedom meant being able to love and enjoy your family. He taught me that freedom meant being able to grow up to be a complete man and a productive member of society. He used to say that he was walking to freedom so all of his grandkids could do the same. Welcome to my journey and my art. This collection is called – Journey to Freedom. Thank you, Grandpa."

–Bill Brown, 2011