

Robert Butler



Robert Butler was born in the small timber and farming community of Baxley, Georgia in 1943. The first four years of his life were spent with his parents in a log cabin that he fondly remembers as an environment that perfectly reflects his African/Cherokee heritage.

In 1947, events transpired that brought Robert to the community of Okeechobee, Florida. That move must have been providential because it was here on the shores of Lake Okeechobee in the heart of Florida's backcountry, that he developed a familiarity with the woods and waters that are so honestly rendered in his paintings. It is correct to say that Robert Butler was tutored by nature itself.

His professional career began in 1968. Robert honed his skills by pushing the limits of his artistic talents and accumulated a vast amount of knowledge by creating more than one hundred paintings a year. With no formal training to facilitate an inherent artistic spirit, Robert developed a style now known world wide as the "Butler style" and exemplified by a dramatically lit and romanticized portrayal of the landscape.

Most recently Robert Butler was named Knight of the Imperial Order of the Star of Honor of the Ethiopian Empire by order of His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Haile Selassie.

"For many years, I've lived close to nature and witnessed the beauty my privileged eye has been allowed to see. As an artist, it is important to me to share my experiences, and whenever I work, it is the larger view that I strive to maintain. I invite you to look at your experience in the same way. The textured tapestry we call reality is constantly changing. An artist is one of the few who will be privileged to add his or her special splash of color." - Robert Butler 1999.

Judge's Statement

I would like to express my absolute delight in being invited to judge your annual miniature Art show. The quality of work was stimulating to my creative skills and taxed my knowledge and experience when it came to the selecting of a winner. You should be proud to host such wonderful artists; they are all a credit to your great organization.

Miniature art is truly a unique display of an artist's talent and from my view all of the participants are winners in their pursuit of excellence. Please thank them for inspiring me to pursue greater works. - Robert Butler 2003

Abbreviations and Symbols

AWS	American Watercolor Society	*	Denotes MASF Award Winner
MAA	Miniature Artists of America	†	Denotes Purchased for MASF Permanent Collection
MASF	Miniature Art Society of Florida	1/25	After Title Denotes First Edition of Twenty-five Made
NFS	Not For Sale	‡	Denotes MASF Award Winner and Purchased for MASF Permanent Collection
RMS	Royal Miniature Society		
SC	Sculpture Case		
DC	Display Case		
MPSGS	Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society		

Octavio Perez



Octavio Perez was raised in the Tampa Bay area and earned his BFA at Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL. After graduation in 1997, he launched his illustration career as a greeting card artist and designer for Hallmark Cards Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri.

Warm weather, endless fishing opportunities and a staff illustrator position with the St. Petersburg Times lured Octavio back to the bay area in 1999. While at the Times, he was hired as an adjunct instructor at Ringling School in 2000 and became a full-time faculty member in 2001. Octavio is currently teaching Illustration Media (watercolors, acrylic, pastels, pen & ink, scratchboard) and Computer Illustration in Ringling's Illustration Department.

Octavio's faculty position affords him an abundance of time to pursue a freelance illustration career. A partial list of clients includes Florida Realtor Magazine, Coldwell Banker, Florida Humanities Council, St. Petersburg Times, Hallmark Cards, Beall's Department Stores, Emory University and New York School of Law.

Last year, Octavio created his first miniature art paintings and entered them in his first art exhibition as a professional - the 2003 Miniature Art Society of Florida International Show. He received the Jack Sprague Tribute Award, given to the best first-time entry, as well as the First Place in Acrylic Award.

When asked why he chose to paint miniatures, Octavio replied, "My interest in miniature art was a natural fit... a love of wildlife and the detail in nature was what inspired me to become an artist in the first place. Miniature art allows me to indulge my passion."

Octavio lives with his wife, Suzanne, daughter, Maya and cat, Perry in Brandon, FL.

Judge's Statement

Judging this year's show with Robert Butler was truly an amazing and rewarding experience. Special thanks to the organized crew of MASF volunteers that made viewing 891 miniature masterpieces an efficient and exhilarating experience. Selecting winning entries from such a wonderful collection of work was probably the hardest thing I've ever had to do as an artist. So many of the drawings, paintings and sculptures were of such high artistic integrity and technical quality. Ultimately we had to pick just a few of the most successful pieces to receive the highest honors.

Throughout the two days of reviewing artwork with Robert, it struck me that a vast majority of the miniatures were just a few brushstrokes away from being award-winners. It was positively exciting to see so many artists on the threshold of excellence. As a professional educator, I found myself wanting to have a personal dialogue with each artist about how to push his or her work to that next level. Most of the time all it takes is having confidence in your work.

The degree of talent in the world of miniatures is extraordinary and undeniable. The range of artistic expression in such a small format left me awed and inspired. I can't wait to get back to my studio so I can start working on submissions for next year's miniature art show.