



# Finally Living the Dream



by Mr. Stephen Sanders, Office of Counsel,  
DCMA Lockheed Martin Fort Worth

**M**r. Robert L. Berry Jr., a logistics management specialist at Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Lockheed Martin Fort Worth, has been dreaming of being an artist since he was 5 years old. From drawing on blackboards for his fourth grade teacher's holiday presentations to the present day, Mr. Berry has spent countless hours in an effort to bring his dream to life. Now, after over 50 years and thousands of hours devoted to his art, Mr. Berry's dream has come true in a very meaningful way.

me to create art with a passion, although it would be difficult at times," Mr. Berry mused. "I never gave up the dream, though, and my art was always on my mind."

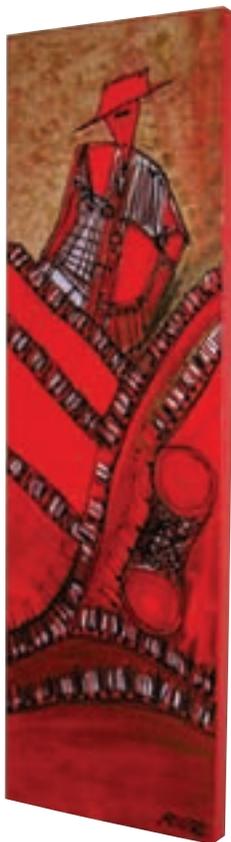
Mr. Berry retired from the Air Force in 1991 and received a master's degree in political science from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1993. He then moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1998 and worked for the Air Force. He began working for DCMA in 2000. Throughout his life he never ceased working on his art, continuing to paint and exhibiting his work in art competitions, art festivals and other

venues. Today he is commercially established and continues to work towards becoming nationally known as an artist.

**Mr. Berry creates what he calls "JazzXpressions," a series of bold, colorful abstracts based on a jazz and blues theme.**

From his earliest memories, Mr. Berry knew he wanted to be an artist, but life kept getting in the way. After graduating from high school in his native Alabama, he enrolled in college to pursue an art degree; however, he wound up instead in the U.S. Air Force serving in Vietnam. "Things got pretty hairy over there," said Mr. Berry, "but I survived it and decided to stay in the military."

His 20 years in the Air Force also included tours of duty in the Philippines, Middle East, Korea, Japan, Australia and Iceland. These journeys and his exposure to various cultures influenced Mr. Berry greatly and added to the depth of his work. "Traveling the world would inspire



Mr. Berry works in several genres, but his specialty is using acrylics and a paint knife to create his works, and he has used the same knife for 20 years. Utilizing this medium, he creates what he calls "JazzXpressions," a series of bold, colorful abstracts based on a jazz and blues theme. "I depict images that are distorted caricatures of jazz musicians and instruments with bold strokes, heavy textures and radical colors and try to present a 'happy Southern feeling,'" Mr. Berry said with a grin. "They might just put a smile on your face!" Mr. Berry has also created a line of hand-painted glass and crystal pieces. Everything from glass vases to plates, stemware to

**(Above Left)** This painting, entitled "Sax Play," shows the mellow side of Mr. Berry's work.

**(Above Right)** One of Mr. Berry's paintings, "Piano Madness" — a hot red landscape crisscrossed with black and white keys.

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expensive crystal urns, turns into visions of color and texture under his hand.

Mr. Berry has shown his works at events throughout the South, including the Bayou Arts Festival in Houston, the Paseo Arts Festival in Oklahoma City, the Dallas Arts and Jazz Festival and various galleries and arts festivals in Oklahoma and Texas. He was recently selected as the featured artist at the 2006 Jazz on the Boulevard Festival, presented by Cadillac, in Fort Worth, Texas — his greatest

accomplishment to date and the culmination of his years of effort. Because Mr. Berry was this year’s featured artist, one of his images will be used nationwide on billboards, posters and advertisements for next year’s festival. Exposure of this magnitude is not only a testimony to the beauty and inspiration of his work, but it is also a validation and a confirmation of his efforts to achieve the title “artist.”

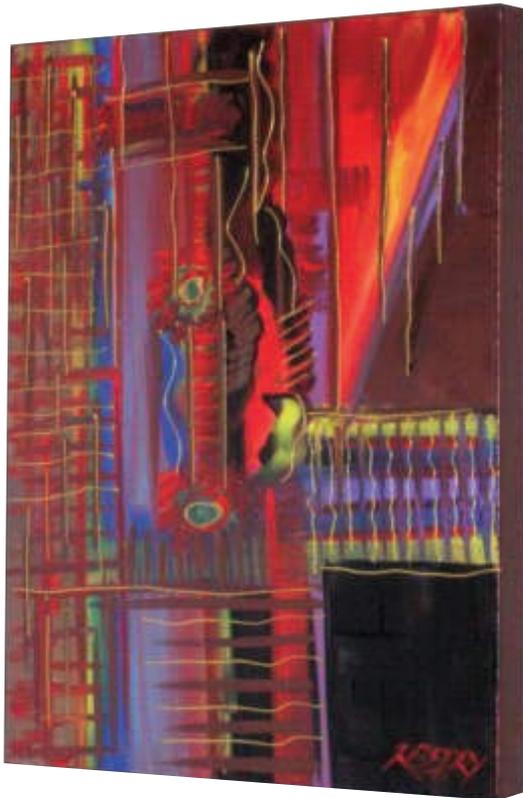
“I am still searching,” said Mr. Berry, “for that elusive, ultimate reward of becoming a recognized

and successful artist. But I believe that art is a powerful weapon in the struggle for world peace. It is one of the highest expressions of human victory. I hope that my effort to perfect my own art enhances the human condition in general.”

As children, many people dream of accomplishing great things but most never quite reach their goals. In this case, what started as a schoolboy’s fantasy has grown over time and become a reality through perseverance and an attitude of triumph. By being

selected for this great honor, Mr. Berry is living his dream, and he has, without a doubt, achieved the goal of being recognized as a true artist.

Examples of Mr. Berry’s JazzXpressions and other work can be found on his Web site, <http://www.jazzxpressions.com>.



**(Top and Above Left)** Examples of Mr. Berry’s abstract work, which is his foundation. These pieces show the dazzling style that he has combined with the jazz motif to produce his “JazzXpressions.”

**(Above Right)** Mr. Robert L. Berry Jr., DCMA Lockheed Martin Fort Worth logistics management specialist and artist, in his studio in Texas.