

canvassing his young passion



Wayne Lown has always made a living through woodworking, but beneath the surface his passion is painting.

Lown is an upcoming artist from West Columbia. He started painting just over a year ago and he sells the majority of his artwork at the Soda City Market. He first decided to start after realizing that he could do more within his lifetime other than woodworking.

“It’s given me hope that I can do something outside of what I’ve done my entire life and that’s woodwork. Although I still enjoy woodwork, because it was my means for making a living, it’s become more of a drudgery the last few years, and this has given me just a joy and enjoyment that I was beginning to think ‘is there anything else that I can do’ so this has fulfilled that,” said Lown.

Some of the other locations he has sold his artwork at are a festival in

Lexington and a couple of restaurants in west Columbia. He first started selling his paintings at Soda City Market in March 2018. He sells most of his art at Soda City Market, where he sells originals and prints of his own artwork. He sets up his booth every Saturday along with other vendors.

Starting out as an artist, Lown was apprehensive to attempt painting since his older brother was the artist in the family. Lown was into the outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting and sports and his brother’s strengths were art and music. When his brother passed away, he decided to pick up a paintbrush. When he decided to tap into his hidden artistic side, he found inspiration in the famous artist, Bob Ross.

“I didn’t know I could do it but Bob Ross says it was easy and it was. As he says, if you practice it and stick with it, you can do it, and I believe that part of it,” said Lown.

Lown’s art passion stems from his love of the outdoors. His painting style is realism because he likes to paint landscapes that look as realistic as possible. “Just like Bob Ross, I love the mountains, water and the trees. Somebody who was working with told him ‘Bob, you need to paint trees and the outdoors,’ and because I love the outdoors that’s why I’m drawn to realistic outdoor paintings,” said Lown.

His goal is to glorify God and serve his purpose by serving people and bringing them joy through his artwork. “That it would honor Him, and they would also enjoy it. I think we tend to get in a rut, at least I do, but I think we’re here to serve. I can make a difference in the world or help somebody and serve people. I think that’s what we need to look at. We all have a purpose,” said Lown.



1. Lown sitting proudly in front of his most prized painting. He has been painting for the last year and a half. "I have a lot of favorites, but this is probably my very favorite because it became my logo for my business card, and it's on our mugs, but this is the first painting I did from a photograph. So this is kind of special, and as you walk in our front door we have the original." said Lown. Photo: Natalie Allen



2. Lown talking with tourists that are interested in his artwork. He has been setting up at the local market and selling his products every Saturday since March of last year. "It's my expression of my joy of loving the outdoors," said Lown. Photo: Katie Huffman

3. Various pieces of artwork layed out under Lown's booth. His main goal of making these pieces is to glorify God, while venturing outside of his past niche of woodwork in the process. "...Although I still enjoy woodwork, because it was my means for making a living, it's become more of a drudgery the last few years," said Lown. Photo: Katie Huffman

Surrounded by a vending variety

Vendors of all genders, ages and colors sell at the Soda City Market every Saturday. While tents fill the sidewalks, Columbians and tourists fill the streets. Every person who has a booth has a different passion and a reason to be there, beneath the surface.



Kylie Murphy standing on the sidewalk next to the Girl Scout cookies she is selling. She has set up this table for the past couple of weekends. "My favorite part about being a Girl Scout is helping the community," said Murphy.



Katie Roberts picking out some of her vintage pieces for an interested customer. She has been selling vintage clothes for the past 3 years, but has sold at the Soda City Market for only a year and a half. "This is the only one I'm selling at right now. I'm trying to expand, so I may start doing some Charleston ones on Sundays but Soda City is my every Saturday morning," said Roberts.