



Seeking Kilimanjaro

“What Is Your Mountain To Climb?”



Artist Profile:
Harry
Spratlin

Harry Spratlin is one of many artists I've asked over the past year if the pandemic affected their work -- in both good or bad ways. Spratlin discovered his talent at a young age. “Like many artistic kids, I learned I could draw at age 12,” he said. “I took an elective drafting course in middle school and loved it,” he remembered. “I accepted the assignments as a great challenge and was very determined to excel.”

Spratlin said it was fun and he was surprised to see that only a couple of the other kids had minimal drawing skills. “This experience set me on a pathway to creating authentic, precise drawings as a hobby,” he said. “At the time, I was most inspired by pictures of people by Norman Rockwell and N. C. Wyeth, the great book and magazine illustrators of the early 20th Century.”

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I've known Katrina Davison since we both worked in the media depart-

ment of an Atlanta-area mega church several years ago. I was taken aback when I recently learned that she was planning a trip to Africa to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. However, the more I thought about it, it began to make sense why she and countless adventurers seek to conquer Africa's highest free standing mountain. We all want to go to a higher level. If by chance we successfully reach the top, it's mentally and spiritually satisfying.

The need for a higher level took hold of the Snellville, Georgia Systems Administrator last year, at the outset of the pandemic. However, when Covid-19 had the rest of us looking for a “substitute” mountain to climb, Davison had to have the real thing!

I recently did a brief Q and A with her regarding her upcoming trip to Tanzania, Africa and subsequent climb up the highest mountain she's ever faced.

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STREAMS OF
EULA

PART FIVE

From the memoirs of my mother, Eula Wade: “How I Met John Wade.”

I met John Wade through a girlfriend of mine. She bugged me to meet this fellow, who played semi-pro baseball with her boyfriend. She said she felt that the two of us would “hit it off.” I was not interested. I was more interested in pursuing a career in entertainment for myself.

However, when I arrived at Central Park, where they were playing baseball one Sunday, she said, “John, this is Eula. I want you to meet her.” His back was to me, and when he turned around, the sun hit his eyes and I said “Oh my God!” The boy had hazel eyes, light brown with a touch of green. It seemed as if the sun was spakling in those eyes. I said, “Look out!.” Around that time, Billie Holiday had a hit

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Q: How did the idea of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro come about?

A: *Hiking Kilimanjaro has been a dream of mine for years. I love to do adventurous things, but I don't necessarily like to plan the event. I've been blessed to cross paths with people who are both adventurous and good at planning the experience. Last June, my friend Yodit asked me if I was interested in hiking up Kilimanjaro. She knows I'm the "Yep! Let's do it!" friend. My initial thought was "what about Covid? Will we be able to travel?" Then I realized June 2021 was a year away and a lot can change in the world in a year. So here we are. One year later, in a world that is relatively "open," we are headed to check off a bucket list experience of a lifetime. One that I once dreamed of, but never thought would become a reality.*

Q: What are the risks involved?

A: *Whew! You mean those things I try not to obsess over? The obvious risk is the potential to develop altitude sickness. Altitude sickness can manifest in a very mild form or a variation that is life threatening. I've researched altitude sickness, by soliciting advice from those who successfully summited Kilimanjaro and those who did not. I think the advice of anyone who attempted the trek is valuable. Of course I found information on the internet, but there's nothing like hearing someone's first hand experience. The other risks hikers talk about are the frigid temperatures on summit night and the wind chill that could potentially lead to either frostbite or at a minimum, numb hands and feet. Last but not least, the possibility of dehydration is apparent because your drinking water is very likely to freeze on summit night.*

Q: Do you think there will also be rewards for you personally?

A: *Absolutely!! While my goal is to summit, regardless of the outcome, I know this journey will teach me so much about myself. Each dawn of the 8-day journey (6 days up, 2 days down) will bring a different experience. I purchased a special weatherproof journal so I can document each day of the expedition. This is a lifetime experience that is not about a mountain, but more about facing a challenge that is exciting, scary and one that never really seemed obtainable -- until now. It's also about living life to the fullest and not allowing fear to guide my path. It's about digging deep to complete the task, but also realizing that I am not in this alone. I am experiencing this with other ladies.. This is not an individual sport. We are a team...*



Streams of Eula continued...

song called "Them There Eyes." I said, "My my my!" And from that day until we celebrated 68 years of marriage and mourned his passing in 2018, I never forgot that day. Of course his eyes got darker as he got older, but he had other great qualities that began to sparkle as bright as his eyes. He used to come to my house every Sunday and just sit there -- quietly. That's what I remember about first meeting John Wade!



Artist Profile: Harry Spratlin continued...



This was the pathway Spratlin traveled toward a B.A. in Studio Art at the University of South Carolina, with a concentration on Drawing and Art History.

Regarding Covid-19, Spratlin said, "Painting is a solitary pursuit that inspires the artist and viewer alike, so I would imagine that the artists of the world weren't idled as much by Covid as some professions. I had jobs already cued up when it started, so I wasn't looking for work but I also have to say, focusing on an artistic accomplishment does require a level of focus and concentration that temporarily shut out my anxiety of the dangers of Covid. So, for me, the pandemic was a period of restoration for my hope and spirit through art."

Harry Spratlin with the subjects of one of his paintings: Ruth Parrish and her granddaughter.

"Cameron Wade's Lemonade"

Season Finale



Thanks to the cast, crew and special guests who participated in the production of five episodes of "Cameron Wade's Lemonade" including:

Cast: Cameron Wade and Dee Wade (DJ DSW)

Crew: Tony Reid -- Technical Director

Music Coordinator -- Rick Hodge

Editors -- Tony Reid, L.A. Jackson and Gary Wade

Kira Wade -- Fashion and Make-Up

Guests: Doug Colon (One of the Original B-Boys), Courtney Sillah and Sakeenah Trusty (Atlanta Dance Exchange), Artist and Educator Lisa Love Whittington, Author L.A. Jackson, singer Kam Showers and Licensed Professional Counselor Kinga Sherrill

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