

Noted painter P. Buckley Moss inspired by Kingsport

By Kevin Castle



KINGSPORT — Tennessee touches the canvas in nearly every print that Pat Buckley Moss brushes. It may not be the subject of the painting, itself, but its surroundings, people and places are never far from her mind.

“(Kingsport) is a great source of inspiration because this place and this region prides itself on keeping those kind of places preserved. It holds a special place,” said Moss.

A renowned artist who first came to the Model City in 1972 for an arts and crafts show, Moss, 75, has gained a reputation for her portraits of rural settings and people, having her works hang in art galleries in the United States, Europe and Japan.

“I guess I feel like this is one of my homes because I come back so much,” she said during an interview at Up Against the Wall Gallery on East Market Street, where many of her prints are marketed.

“Coming to one place for over 30 years means it’s pretty special. I love being around creative people, and the people here are very talented and know how to bring the best out of you and your work.”

Several of her pieces can be found in the state Capitol, including some works commissioned by governors sitting in Nashville.

The feeling is mutual if you ask Kingsport Mayor Dennis Phillips, who handed the artist a proclamation Friday along with a key to the city as Dec. 12 was officially recorded as “Patricia Buckley Moss Day.”

“She is a tremendous ambassador for the city of Kingsport, but she is also a champion for the causes she lends her work to for fund-raisers, including organizations that help children with learning disabilities,” said Phillips.

According to the biography on her Web site, one of Buckley’s teachers in her hometown of New York City described her as “not proficient in anything.” But what was not known was Moss’ dyslexia, which kept her from comprehending reading and other skills as quickly as her classmates.

It was then her mother enrolled her in the Washington Irving High School for the Fine Arts, where she flourished and honed her painting talents.

A new print unveiled this weekend in Kingsport called “Tennessee Heritage” will be the cornerstone of a fund-raising effort that will benefit the Netherland Inn-Exchange Place Foundation, said organization President Bobbie Phillips.

Donations of \$5 will give the public an opportunity to win the print, with all of the proceeds going toward projects at the two historic Kingsport sites.

The painting can be seen as Moss hosts a meet-and-greet at Up Against the Wall Gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today.

Information about the awarding of “Tennessee Heritage” will be posted on the Netherland Inn Web site: www.netherlandinn.com.