

Artist Kenneth Pernell Sandlin

Kenneth Pernell Sandlin, simply known as Ken, was born March 31, 1960, in Fort Pierce, FL, where he resides today. Ken's family were migrant workers and traveled to North Carolina in the summer and then back to Florida in the winter and spring. He was also fortunate to have lived next door to one of the original Highwaymen, Alfred Hair, until his untimely death and was influenced by him by watching him paint and create his works of art. Ken attended welding school in 1978 and continued to improve his welding knowledge and skill for many years eventually becoming a Certified Master Welder & Welding Inspector.

Over the past 30 years Ken has successfully completed many welding projects for major companies throughout the country, as well as many projects for the Florida Department of Transportation. While working on a Department project, Ken, saw the need to make the project safer and more efficient. With this vision, Ken invented the "Sanstand & Beam Buggy", which is being used on FDOT projects today. Ken has never viewed welding as just a job. For many years he has enjoyed using his welding skill to create beautiful artwork.

Each piece of art is individually designed and hand-welded by Ken, and therefore each piece is uniquely different and no two are exactly alike. Each piece is made of high-grade stainless steel to ensure the longevity of the artwork which allow the art to be placed outdoors or indoors. Most pieces of Ken's art were created with contemporary abstract design, leaving the beauty of the art to the eye of the individual beholder. Some pieces were created to satisfy those who desire art that fits their personality.

Ken was commissioned to provide his unique art design for a TV show called "Reef Wranglers" that memorialized the life of Jose Wejbe, that hosted the television fishing show "The Spanish Fly". It was a great honor for Ken to provide his artistic talent for this momentous memorial project which resulted in an underwater art garden of several pieces and the crowning piece, a 10' feet circumference stainless steel sea turtle, that was built to provide shelter for the local residents and a sculpture for the divers, off the coast of Orange Beach, Alabama.

Ken has shown his artistic talent at numerous art shows such as Jupiter Art Festival by the Sea, Key Biscayne Art Fair, Sarasota Siesta Fiesta Art Show, Orlando Celebration Art show, Las Olas Art Festival, Juno Beach Art Festival, the Estero Art Festival, The Leesburg Art Festival, and many more. His art has also been featured in the A. E. Backus Art Museum where his sculpture pieces received awards in a juried competition. He has also received the Award of Excellence from the 33rd Deerfield Beach Festival of the Arts, the Patron Award from Halifax Art Festival, the Award of Distinction from St. John's River Festival of the Arts, and the 42nd Leesburg Arts Festival - 3D Judges Choice.

Ken continues to work at his craft to develop his ability to become the best artist he can become.