

Jerry Butler

Bio

Born in Louisiana, raised in Mississippi, Butler received a BS Degree in Art Education from Jackson State University. He moved to Madison, Wisconsin as a middle school teacher and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he received an MFA, MALA, and PhD Degrees. Butler also attended Harvard University's Summer Institute for Transformational Leadership in Education.

Butler served as a middle school art teacher for the Madison Metropolitan School District for many years before becoming an Associate Dean at Madison College in Madison Wisconsin. During his tenure as Associate Dean Butler served on the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Board for two years and the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education Board. In 2008 Butler joined the faculty at Central Connecticut State University where he created public art works in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas, and Connecticut.

Butler has illustrated and published several Books, Magazines, and Posters. Some of these are 'Sweet Words So Brave' Illustrated and Designed, 'A Drawing in the Sand' author, illustrator, and designer, 'Black Body Parts' illustrator, 'Freedom Train North' illustrator, and a series of Jazz Posters. Butler's work has also appeared on Smithsonian Productions "Every Tone A Testimony: An African American Aural History" and the CT-Review, Special Section: Beyond Confession

Artist Statement

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Butlers' art is grounded in the idea that the acts of creativity replicate the process that ensures human sustainability. As an artist, he consults sociology, anthropology, landscape change, and his own academic/aesthetic intuition to create a personal story that interprets cultural values and sensibilities. Butler use methods and materials to address, the marginalization that exploit social and economic differences.

Butlers' art addresses the human capacity to re-engineer self-reflective change toward a desired outcome of choice. This ability to change beliefs, or habits are however, among the most difficult things we can do as humans. Butlers attempt in his art to expose issues that challenges our ability to engineer positive change.