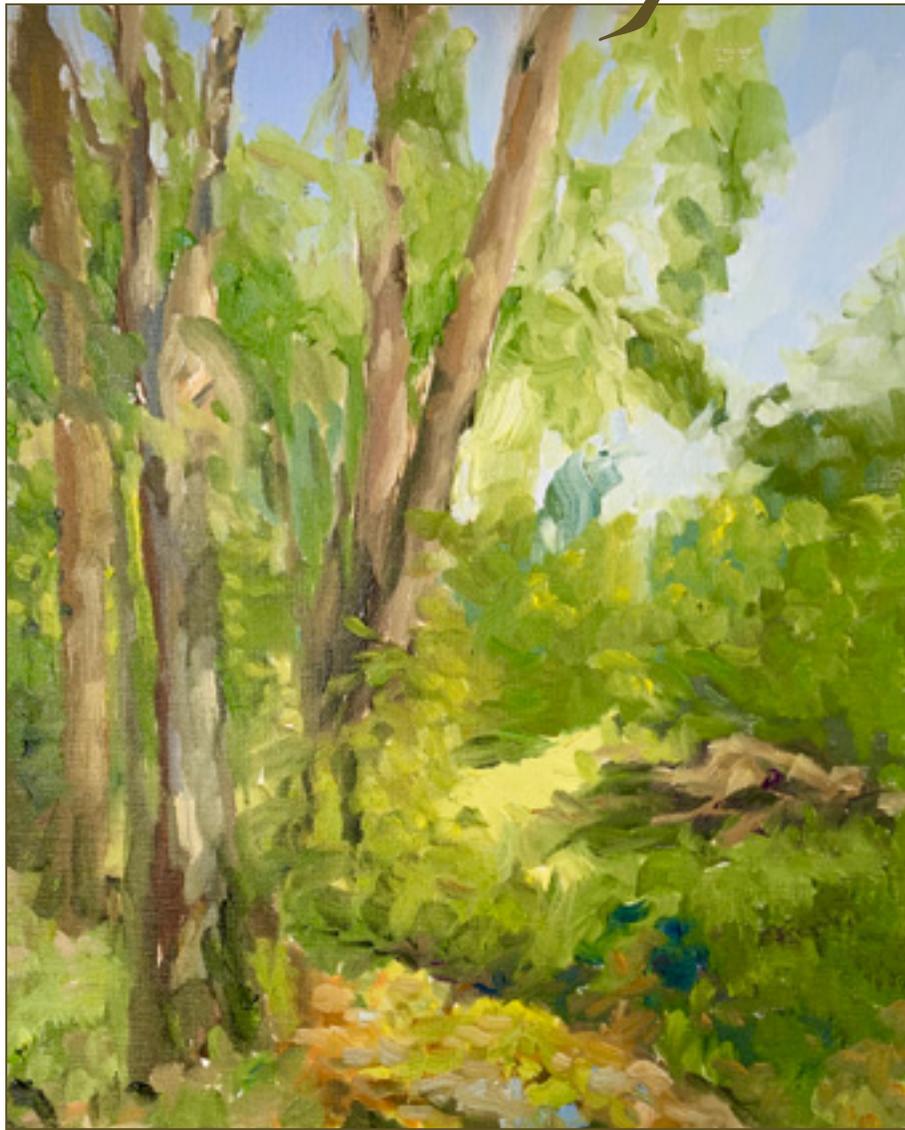


The Southern Landscape

Volume 1



Paintings by Bart Levy

"The undulating terrain was cloaked in lush abundance, the vineyards like garlands of deep green and yellow, orchards and farms sprouting here and there, hillocks of dry golden grass crowned by beautiful sun-gilt houses, barns and silos. And overhead was the bluest sky she'd ever seen, as bright and hard polished as marble.

"There was something about the landscape that caught at her emotions. It was both lush and intimidating, its beauty so abundant. Far from the bustle of the city, she was a complete stranger here, like Dorothy stepping out of her whirling house into the land of Oz."

– Susan Wiggs

We southerners are pretty proud of where we live—with good reason. The mountains, the rolling hills, the swamps and marshes, and our sugary beaches welcome all comers, the ones who come for visit and go home, those who come for a visit and can't seem to leave, those who were born and raised here.

There's a certain timelessness to be found in the small farmhouses and abandoned fields being reclaimed by cedars and trash pines. People are friendly and polite. Most of us live in towns and cities, abandoning the country for jobs and the amenities of city life, but a certain part of us always wants to be able to go home, to a time and place that is fast becoming as foreign as Oz.

I hope you enjoy these pictures. It was a joy to be able to create them and then to bring them to you.

- Bart Levy

On the cover: Robin's Creek, 14" x 11", (Private Collection)



Summer Shade

30" x 40"

Classic southern landscaping: farmhouse – or any house in the country – shaded by towering trees from when people didn't have air conditioning in their homes. Even now, when most people do have A/C, shade is a welcome relief from the powerful summer sun. I return to this theme with [Little House in the Grove](#), on [page 9](#).



April Sunset
20" x 16"

Southerners love their ponds, creeks, marshes and rivers. Many a dinner has been supplemented with the results of a day on the water. Now, at sunset, it's time to go home.

✍

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Marsh at St. James

16" x 20"

From a scene near Southport, NC, where the marsh is cut through with channels that will eventually take you to the Cape Fear River.



Shenandoah Hayfield
16" x 20"

After the second cutting of hay. This broad valley was for a very long time a breadbasket for the mid-Atlantic. It maybe still is, but it's a tough life for small farmers.



How Can I Keep From Singing
36" x 36"

Calm waters reflecting a glorious sunset surrounded by quiet marshes. This large painting indeed makes a statement for a joyful heart.



Tender Light of Sunset
11" x 14"

Open water ringed by marshes at my favorite time of day. The sky takes on a quality that can break your heart it is so beautiful, a quality that I've never seen anywhere but in eastern North Carolina.

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Little House in the Grove

18" x 24"

An old farmhouse, protected from the worst of the weather by its grove of towering trees. Chances are good that this farmhouse was built before air conditioning was in most homes. In fact, it may still not have A/C. The trees will lower the temperatures in the house by at least 10 degrees—crucial for livability in the south.



Distant Rain

16" x 20"

Not every day in the south is sunny, of course. These wide marshes near Tybee Island, South Carolina, offer magnificent views of incoming rain.



What We Cannot See
24" X 36"

Perhaps my fascination with marshes is the knowledge that, though it looks like solid ground, in fact a great deal of it is muddy, soft ground you can sink in up to your ankles – or deeper. There's also the hidden rivulets, puddles and soft mud under dark water that looks so innocent. Not to mention all those unseen critters.

About Bart Levy

I am a child of the south. Hot, humid summers with frigid air conditioning, iced tea all year around (sweet, if your taste runs that way), and children brought up to be polite to their elders. Born in Virginia, raised in North Carolina, resident of Virginia all of my adult life.



The south definitely influences my painting, as you can see. It's a landscape of lonesome farms, wide rivers and dark creeks. The marshes, the mountains, the rolling hills in-between. Blue skies, ever-changing clouds. It's a beautiful land, settled first by Native Americans, then European immigrants since time immemorial. The peacefulness, the isolation, the sense of home—I work to capture it all with bold brushwork and a sense of home in my heart.

If you are interested in owning any of these paintings, or if you have a favorite that isn't in this collection, please visit my website. Or contact me directly—I'd love to talk to you.

— *Bart*

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