

Ken Gilliland: The "Bird Man" of Poser

Posted by [Emmy Rey](#) on Jun 9, 2015 2:12:51 AM

Smith Micro asked graphic artist Ken Gilliland the "Bird Man" of [Poser](#) to share his story. What is now a collection of nearly 1000 different bird models designed in Poser has become much more than just that.

I go back a long way with Poser, all the way back to Poser "1". For the first couple versions, I used Poser's "Andy" as a reference model to create poses in my oil paintings. With the introduction of animal models in Poser, I began rendering wildlife scenes which led to my quest for good bird models. After exhausting what bird model options were available to me, I began creating my own and now find myself the author of almost 1,000 different bird species.

My work has been featured in film and TV, in museum displays, in print and in Audubon literature, as art in national advertising campaigns (mostly bird seed catalogs), within the scientific and birder communities and of course, the 3D digital art community.

I'm very supportive of Audubon. I hold an annual charity sale, in which I donate a portion of my sales to help Audubon California protect endangered birds. My bird sets also carry an extensive manual that explains the habitat and behavior of the birds featured and how we can help reverse the tide of their extinctions. As far as I know, I'm one of the only 3D artists who uses their 3D work to educate and stir environmental activism.



Bald Eagle

My work is my passion and therefore I have chosen to use Poser for a number of reasons; from its ease of use to its powerful animation tools--it's software that

doesn't get in the way of your creativity. As a content creator, it's important to have to software stability. Poser has an excellent track record with this. Rather than reinventing the wheel every time there's an update, Poser adds new features while retaining backwards compatibility. This means my customers can continue to use their products with higher versions of the software.

You can view more of Ken's work and learn more about his cause [here](#). You can follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as well.

To learn more about Poser please visit our [website](#).

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Chris Creek

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Ken is indeed the "master blaster" of all things birds! His passion and knowledge for creating what he does is very apparent and appreciated!

There will never be his equal!