

Memorial Day Weekend

Morada Bay

**SATURDAY
MAY 24TH**

**No. 1
ISLAND
PARTY**

LIVE MUSIC • BEACH BBQ • SIGNATURE COCKTAILS • DJ'S • PERFORMERS • FIREWORKS

"21 & Over For This Ride"
Morada Bay Beach \$20
Pierre's Lounge \$30

Captain Morgan Morada Bay

MORADABAY.COM 81600 OVERSEAS HWY, ISLAMORADA FL 305 664 0604

Art Box Artist of the Month: Yvette Cotera

Yvette Cotera is a first generation Cuban-American born in Norfolk, Virginia. She has a past 35-year Hershey connection as her great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother and five of her great aunts and uncles worked at the Milton Hershey's Sugar Central in Cuba.

Her mother and uncle were also both born in one of the Hershey town homes, which was modeled after the town in Hershey, PA. As her family traveled, Yvette spent her early years between Cuba, Virginia and Maryland in the US

before moving to south Florida where she has now lived for over 43 years. Inspired by her Caribbean island roots, the colorful tropics in Miami and her ocean home in Key Largo, Yvette creates sea life paintings that connect her to the many places of her life.

In 1978 she earned a degree in Advertising Design at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, and was employed 4 years as a creative artist working at Tropix Togs and Wellington Apparel. There she designed whimsical art for apparel using licensed characters such as the Smurfs, the Jetsons, the Flintstones, Chilly Willy, Woody Woodpecker and Donald Duck. Her designs were sold all over the US!

While raising her 3 children, Yvette continued to work part time as a freelance artist for over 6 years at Pffafco Inc. creating logos. She taught Art at St. Paul Lutheran K-8 School in Miami for over 4 years. Her art students participated and received awards in national duck stamp drawing contests, yearly school art shows and at the Miami Dade County Youth Fair.

Drawn toward the rewarding field of teaching, she returned to school, studied art history and computer art and earned her BA in 2010 at Miami Dade College in Exceptional Student Education.

Encouraged by her father, a doctor who passed away from MS, Yvette returned in 2013 to her passion of creating art. She is now affiliated with VSA Florida as a teaching artist and inspires people of all abilities to express themselves through the visual arts. Yvette has completed three visual art teaching residencies working with special need students. Many of her students have their work on exhibit; ask her where you can see it.

Yvette continues to grow as an artist and now takes her camera everywhere, including underwater, where she has taken images as inspiration for her paintings from her recent trips to Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the Caribbean Islands. Working from her home studio or plein air, she prefers to paint in mixed media using acrylics, water colors, dyes and inks on canvas and crescent acrylic board.



You can find Yvette at the Art Box teaching watercolor to children twice a month on Saturdays, as part of the kids' Saturday painting class (held every week, from 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm, for \$15). Look for Yvette's participation in the Art Box's upcoming Summer Program as well.

The summer kids art program starts June 9th and sessions are held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:30 am to noon or 12:30-3 pm; or both. Ages 5-12. The classes cover media from watercolors, acrylics, and drawing, to clay pottery. The summer program runs weekly throughout the summer; please call for reservations and pricing 305-451-5461.



Yvette with a few of her students at the Art Box Saturday painting class.