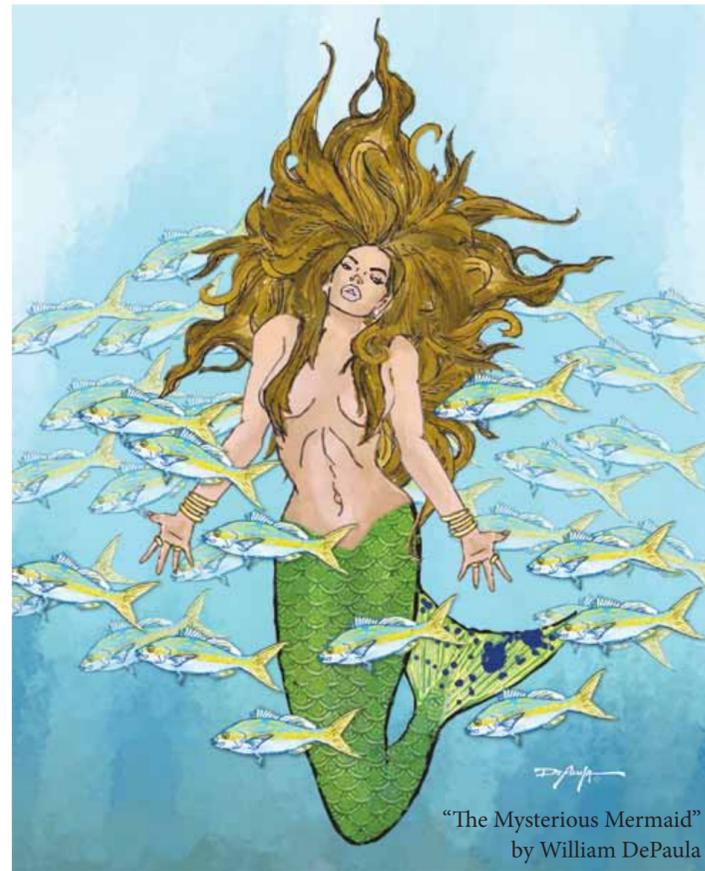




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Artist of the Month: William DePaula - The Island Artist

Islamorada Jewelers and that is where you will find William and his amazing original jewelry creations as well as his original paintings and prints. DePaula and his wife have also published a book of his art titled "Hula Girls," also available at the gallery.

In high school he was voted "Most versatile" and if you visit his website www.depaulatrading.com you will be able to see more of his work, including more of his original paintings. DePaula is a self-taught artist who teaches art classes at the Banyan Tree. He also does commissions, contact him at the store or at depaulaart@gmail.com.

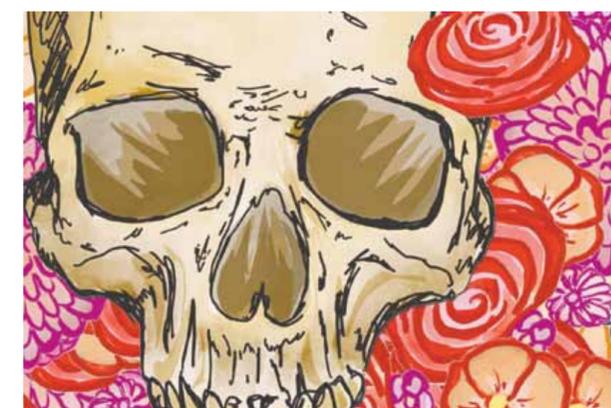
William DePaula, local artist extraordinaire graduated from Coral Shores High School in 1996 and is also a GIA graduate gemologist who attended Florida International University. While he was away at college he had a once-in-a-lifetime chance encounter with the Dalai Lama who gave William his blessing and encouraged him to "follow your dreams." The wise Dalai Lama recognized the creative spirit and genius in DePaula and from that point on William knew that art was his passion and calling in life.

William and Carolyn, his wife of 18 years, live in the Upper Keys with their 3 children. His art reflects his Cuban-American heritage and his love for the beauty that surrounds him and he expresses it in his own unique way.

I have known the Depaula family for about 30 years and watched them grow. They are the most loved, trusted and knowledgeable jewelers in the upper Keys and have contributed so much to the community over the years. If you are looking for a unique gift visit either of the DePaula family stores for truly original made in the Keys Jewelry.

About his art, William says, "Lost culture is a painting that represents just that. In our modern society of making everything similar we often loose important cultures. The skull is in decay symbolizing the culture being all but dust. The feather headdress is not typical of any particular tribe or culture, it is instead a general symbol to what is being lost. When we lose these cultures we lose part of ourselves."

They say that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree... The Depaula family opened Islamorada Jewelers in 1984 and not long after moved to their Tavernier Town location. William's father Joe is a Master Jeweler and his mother Lynn a graduate Gemologist. A few years ago they reopened



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