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**RATES KEY LARGO MAP PAGE**

Vertical: 2.3" wide x 3.63" tall \$125 per month

Horizontal: 4.3" wide x 2.75" tall \$150 per month

Skyscraper: 2.3" wide x 7.5" tall \$200 per month

Bottom Banner: 9.13" wide x 2" tall \$225 per month

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## Painting with a Re-Purpose: Conch Artist Spotlight on Amy JoAn of Amy's Creations

by Marilee Free



wolves. She painted a life-like mural of Noah's Ark. Here in the Keys, you can see her sea-life murals at Tower of Pizza, Miracle Leaf and Animal Care Clinic in Key Largo, with 3 more locations in the works. She also does residential murals, custom portraits, pet portraits, buoys, signs and custom paintings. She supports the efforts of other artists. Angie Bunch is a featured artist with colorful buoys displayed at Amy's Rain Barrel shop.

Inspired by art since she was 8 years old, Amy realized she had a passion for painting murals. She drew some of her motivation from her high school teacher Mrs. Delio, in John Jay School of New York. Mrs. Delio taught Amy to paint still life objects with depth, shadowing and real-life imagery. Being motivated and self-driven, she refined her skills to become a muralist and a re-purposed art restoration specialist. Amy loves painting anything involving nature and the ocean. In New York, Amy painted scenes with mountains, bears, coyotes and



Amy JoAn in her shop at the Rain Barrel in Islamorada.

coffee tables, memorabilia boxes, dressers, ceramic tiles, furniture and more. Her motto is, "If there's a surface, I'll paint it - if there's no surface, I'll make one!" Amy makes custom signs from re-purposed pallet wood and vanity license plates on the spot. She was busy painting Christmas ornaments when I visited her in the Rain Barrel. She has been a resident artist there since November 2018. With her son, Damian, and daughter, Zarrah, Amy has lived in the Keys for over 10 years. Among the plethora of artists in the Keys, Amy says it is her versatility that makes her unique and successful. She has something for everyone, and if she doesn't have it, she can create it, most of the time on the spot. In the off-

season she keeps busy creating inventory and painting murals. She has a Facebook page, 'Amy's Creations of the Florida Keys,' an Instagram site - amyscreations\_FLK, and has reviews on Yelp to help people find her treasures. Amy's Creations is open 6 days a week from 9am to 5pm, closed on Tuesday. During tourist season she says she will be open 7 days a week with Damian holding down the fort. When she isn't tending to the store or painting murals, she enjoys snorkeling, kayaking and billiards. Bet she shoots a mean game of pool! Her advice to young aspiring artists is to experience everything, and never give up. The trick is to stay positive and tell yourself 'you can do this' and paint and paint and paint.

### Male Sensitivity Self-Assessment Test

- In the company of females, intercourse should be called:
    - Lovemaking
    - Screwing
    - Taking the pigskin rocket to tuna-town
  - You should make love to a woman for the first time only after you've both shared:
    - Your views about what you expect from a relationship
    - Your blood-test results
    - Five tequila slammers
  - You time your orgasm so that:
    - Your partner climaxes first
    - You climax simultaneously
    - You don't miss ESPN Sports Center
  - Passionate, spontaneous sex on the kitchen floor is:
    - Healthy, creative love-play
    - Not the sort of thing your wife would agree to
    - Not the sort of thing your wife needs to know about
  - Spending the whole night cuddling after sex is:
    - Best part of the experience
    - The second best part of the experience
    - \$100 extra
  - Your wife/girlfriend says she's gained five pounds in the last month. You tell her that it is:
    - Of no influence on your affectionate feelings for her
    - Not a problem; she can join your gym
    - A conservative estimate
  - You think today's sensitive, caring man is:
    - A myth
    - An oxymoron
    - A moron
  - Foreplay is to sex as:
    - An appetizer is to an entree
    - Primer is to paint
    - A long line is to an amusement park ride
  - Which of the following are you most likely to find yourself saying at the end of a relationship?
    - "Can we still be friends?"
    - "I'm not available right now, please leave a message at the tone."
    - "Welcome to Dumpsville. Population, YOU!"
  - A woman who's uncomfortable watching you masturbate:
    - Probably needs a little more time before she can cope with that sort of intimacy
    - Is uptight and a waste of time
    - Shouldn't have sat next to you on the bus in the first place
- If you answered "A" more than 7 times, check your pants to make sure you really ARE a man.  
If you answered "B" more than 7 times, check into therapy.  
If you answered "C" more than 7 times, "YOU DA MAN!"*
- Did you guess? Written by a man and sent in by another one!*