

Art Guild of the Purple Isles' Annual Members' Judged Show Winners Announced

The winners of AGPI's 58th Annual Show were announced recently. This year's judges, George and Stacy Sass, awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mention ribbons in 8 different categories along with Best In Show. First Place winners are: John David Hawver (ink/pencil/pastel); Carol Ubben (oil); David Badder (plein air); Louise Lindsay (photography); Kelly Walkotten (digital art); Mary-Ellen Cassata Holler (water media); Monica Bankowski (acrylic); Diane Smith

(mixed media). Best in Show was awarded to Jackie Campa for an acrylic painting titled "High Tide." The public's Peoples' Choice Award was presented to the winning artist upon show closing, which was not available at press time.



"High Tide" by Jackie Campa won Best of Show.



First place in the mixed media category, "Flower Girls of Havana" by Diane Smith.



This digital photograph "Golden Everglades" by Kelly Walkotten won the first place for Digital Art.

Afro Roots Fest to Bring Multicultural Rhythms to Islamorada

Audiences in Islamorada can enjoy three days of multi-cultural music with an all-star South Florida lineup of Afro Roots artists Friday through Sunday, April 26-28, during Afro Roots Fest.

All performances are set to take place on the outdoor beer garden stage at Florida Keys Brewing Company, 81611 Old Highway near mile marker 81. It's free to attend and open to music lovers of all ages.

The annual celebration of Pan-African and Caribbean cultures and music opens Friday at 6 p.m. with Jean P. Jam's special blend of world beat music called Deep Roots, combining African, soca, Caribbean and reggae influences into a unique amalgamation.

The Saturday show is to begin at 6 p.m. with vibrant Venezuelan music by Venzonix, accompanied by Venezuelan

dance group San Juan USA. Then Miami-based Cortadito is to take the stage, performing their signature "son montuno" brand of Cuban music reminiscent of the famed Buena Vista Social Club.

Beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, Manny Swagg is to deliver his unique blend of Latin jazz, Afro-Latin beat, Caribbean folk and traditional Cuban music; followed by Stella Fusion's smooth cumbia salsa funk from Colombia.

Florida Keys Brewing Company's locally brewed and island-inspired beers will be available for purchase, along with food truck fare.

The Islamorada performances conclude Afro Roots Fest's 26th annual season of music events throughout South Florida.

The festival is staged by Community Arts and Culture, a



Saturday's headliner: Cortadito. Photo credit: Edwin Cardona.

nonprofit dedicated to increasing understanding through the cultivation, preservation and presentation of diverse cultural music and arts offerings.

Afro Roots Fest is sponsored by Monroe County Tourist Development Council, Morada Way Arts & Cultural District, Islamorada Commu-

nity Entertainment and the Florida Keys Brewing Company.

Festival information: afrorootsfest.com

Islamorada visitor info: fla-keys.com/Islamorada or 1-800-FAB-KEYS

Social Media: Facebook • Twitter • Instagram • YouTube • Pinterest • TikTok • Keys Voices Blog

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janeasmund@bellsouth.net

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AFRO ROOTS FEST 2024

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FRIDAY APRIL 26TH 6PM

JEAN P. JAM

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH 6PM

CORTADITO VENEZONIX & SAN JUAN

SUNDAY APRIL 28TH 2PM

MANNY SWAGG & STELLA FUSION

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