

Artist of the Month: Michaelyn Dreiling

Artist of the Month, Michaelynn Dreiling, was given her first camera when she was only three-years-old. She instantly loved to take pictures of everything around her and each year for her birthday her father bought her the latest camera on the market. Her passion for photography grew as she traveled the world with her parents and sister. Her parents are avid art lovers and scuba divers who photographed all their travels and shared their images with their enthralled daughter Micha, as her friends call her.

At a young age, Dreiling taught herself how to use the darkroom and began developing her own images. After graduating high school she moved to Austin, Texas to study photography at a local college. There she discovered the music scene and her love of music and photography were combined to fuel her soul. After graduating she packed up her cameras and moved to Los Angeles to work for a record label. It was there, in the city of angels, that Dreiling also fell in love with the television entertainment world. By day, Dreiling worked for Fox Television and at night she went to the clubs to fulfill her passion of photographing musicians. One of her pieces of work was displayed at the famous Sunset

Strip rock and roll club, "The Roxy".

the Keys. A few years later, her business partner invited her on a

Morada Bay Cafe where the Full Moon Party was in full swing. That was it! Dreiling was hooked on "island living!" She headed back to Texas just long enough to sell most of possessions and pack. In tow she brought a few necessities, her camera bag and her dogs. She traded her bar keys to live in the Keys.

Once she got settled into her newly-purchased sailboat in Key Largo she went to work as a dive instructor. As such, it only seemed natural to learn about underwater photography with her new Canon Digital DSLR. As word of her keen eye and photography skills spread, it wasn't long till she was offered a job photographing a wedding. She was a hit!

"There is something magical about capturing those precious moments between two lovers, preserving the memories for a lifetime," Dreiling explains.

So with the love and full support of her fiance, former Bartender of the Month Sid Vandiver, Michaelens Island Photography was born.

"If it wasn't for Sid's constant encouragement I might not have ever pursued my lifelong dream of opening my own business," she says.

Dreiling's greatest creation came recently when she gave

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During a trip home to visit family, she ran into an old musician friend from the band Creed. He offered her a partnership in a rock club he was opening in Houston. Little did she know the union would lead her to

trip to Miami, where the first thing Dreiling and her friends did was hop a yacht to the Keys. After diving all day, she met a local cab driver with no shirt and no shoes. (She thought he was terrific!) He took them to

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Artist of the Month

...continued from facing page birth to Kaiya Sailor Grace Vandiver. Sid also has a 6-year-old daughter named Madison. The naturally beautiful sisters make perfect modeling subjects for Dreiling, who intends to capture every stage of their growth. This new inspiration has led Dreiling to begin professionally photographing children and families.

"I'm your personal family photographer," says Dreiling. "From newborns to weddings and every precious moment in between."

Dreiling is also committed to donating her services to various local charities. Starting this year with every package, print, and

album that sells, she will donate 5% to various local charities. She would like the community to know that if there is a benefit or a charitable school program she would love to donate her time or services.

"I feel positive change will only happen if one is involved with their community. I'd like to share as much as I can with others and in doing so, inspire those

around me."

Dreiling is looking to open a studio in the Upper Keys and continue in building her business and contributing to the community. Visit her website at MichaelLens.com or www.facebook.com/MichaelLensIslandPhotography.



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FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29. The REGS 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	30. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	31. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	1. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	2. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	3. David Bowman 2-5 pm The REGS 6-10	4. Luke & Dave 1-5 Swamp Night with THE GLADEZMEN 6-10
5. EGO1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	6. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	7. Luke 1-3:30pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	8. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	9. John McKinna 1-3:30pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	10. David Bowman 2-5 pm Justa Head Sound 6-10	11. Luke & Dave 1-5 Gypsy Road Band 6-10
12. Colbert the Band 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	13. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	VALENTINES DAY! Luke 1-5 T.J. Karaoke 6-10	15. Allen Truesdell 1-5pm and Harry French 6 - 10 pm	16. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	17. David Bowman 1-5 pm Blackwater Sound 6-10	18. Luke & Dave 1-5 EGO Band 6-10
19. Mr. Nice Guy 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	20. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	21. Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	22. Allen Truesdell 1-5pm and Harry French 6 - 10 pm	23. John McKinna 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	24. David Bowman 1-5 pm Colbert the Band 6-10	25. Luke & Dave 1-5 No Restrictions 6-10
26. The REGS 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	27. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	28. Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	29. Allen Truesdell 1-5pm and Harry French 6 - 10 pm	01. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	02. David Bowman 1-5 pm The REGS 6-10	03. Luke & Dave 1-5 EXIT 19 6-10

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