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Artist of the Month: Ginger Hill

Although I lived my entire life in Maryland, I remember vacationing in the Florida Keys with my family as a child. I was always amazed by the clear turquoise water, the amazing sea life and the beautiful tropical plants of the Keys. As a child, I was always encouraged by my mom to dabble in art. She would draw something and I would try to copy it. I loved art!

I studied painting and practiced lettering throughout my early school years. In 1980, I graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Fine Art. Over the years, I have had a wide

variety of art-related jobs: technical illustrator; display work for a large department store; make up artist; floral designer. As a mother of two daughters, I painted elaborate whimsical murals in their rooms when they were young... and I discovered my passion for painting murals. Once my daughters were grown I wasn't sure what to do with myself. Divorced and tired of living in a cold climate, I moved to the Keys. I didn't have a job lined up and I only had one acquaintance in Key Largo. I took the chance on a new life in paradise.



quickly. Then came Hurricane Irma. Fortunately, I was back in Maryland visiting my mom when the storm hit. My apartment was ravaged and most of my belongings were lost in the storm surge. But I was not discouraged. I have always been a bit of a "salvager," so I started combing through mountains of debris in search of distressed and broken fence boards and discarded cabinet doors. They became my new canvases, and painting on Irma debris became my new niche.



From there, word spread and I began selling my art at local fairs and festivals. Then came requests for signs for local businesses and murals in private homes. Many people like my skilled lettering and whimsical style of painting native fish and birds. I really enjoy the unlimited variety of work that comes my way.

I love custom orders and commissions. I never know what project the next phone call will bring or what challenge is around the corner. My designs can be seen on dozens of mailboxes throughout the Keys. I've also been asked to restore a 15-ft. marlin mount for a local tackle shop. That project led to more fish restorations.

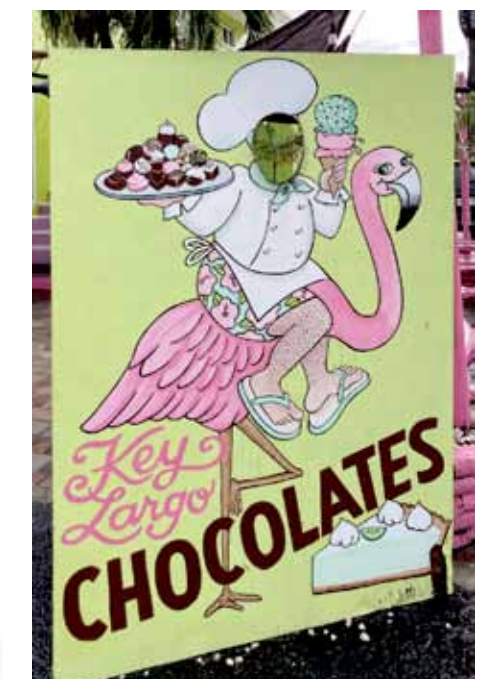
I am often commissioned to do pet portraits and even mermaid portraits. I've made photo op boards (where tourists pose for funny photos) for several local

businesses. I enjoy painting whimsical window designs and fun chalkboard menus for local businesses like my ice cream shop.



map for our new Disc Golf course there as well. I was even commissioned to paint a map of all the fire stations in the Keys at the Firehouse Museum in Key Largo.

I look forward to sharing talents and ideas to help design something amazing for the new Humane Society complex. I love my community and my life in Paradise. I feel I'm finally exactly where I belong. This loving, tight knit community has embraced me and I'm holding on tight. I try to give back any chance I get. I am truly "living the dream" here in the Florida Keys.



My art can be seen at ArtbyGinger on Facebook and Instagram. Or email me at auburnartist@yahoo.com.

their own masterpiece.

I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to sell some of my tiki art and signs at KLI. My fun, Keysey designs can also be seen at Key Largo park on the dugouts, and I even painted a



I am often asked to host "paint and sip" social painting parties. These are always a fun time and I love sharing my talent with my community. It's fun to help others and see their surprise when they realize they can create

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