



One-Sided Relationships

Relationships can get out of balance and one-sided, if we don't occasionally check in with each other.

One of the most beautiful qualities of an intimate relationship is the give and take of energy that occurs between two people. In the best-case scenario, both people share the talking and listening, and the giving and receiving of support, equally.

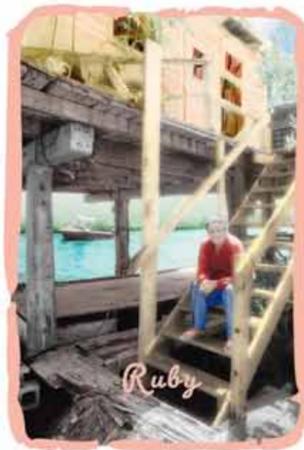
Occasionally, within any relationship, the balance shifts and one person needs to listen more, or give more. Generally, over a long period of time, even this exception will take on a balanced rhythm; we all go through times when we take more and times when we give more.

However, there are also relationships in which the balance has always felt one-sided. You may have a friend whom you like, but you have begun to notice that the conversation is always about their life and their problems and never about yours. You may also have a friend who seems to require an inordinate amount of support from you but who is unable or unwilling to give much in return.

Over time, these relationships can be draining and unsatisfying. One option is simply to end the relationship, or let it fade out naturally. Another option is to communicate to your friend that you would like to create a more equal balance in you also get some airtime. They may be taken aback at first, but if they are able to hear you, your friendship will become more sincere. They may even thank you for revealing a pattern that is probably sabotaging more than one relationship in their life.

A third option is to simply accept the relationship. There are one-sided relationships that actually work. An example of this is a mentor relationship. Another example is a relationship in which you are helping someone who is sick, disabled, or otherwise needy. In these instances, you can simply be grateful that you are able to help and be helped, trusting that the balance of give and take will even out in the big picture of your life.

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Ruby Stern known as "Miss Ruby", was the matriarch of Downtown Card Sound. She was a familiar site to travelers across Card Sound bridge.

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY



305-451-7778

On the shirt back is Carol's image of Ruby Stern, matriarch of Downtown Card Sound Road, a place that doesn't exist on any map... yet was home to a community of free spirits, fishermen and independent thinkers who took up residence there. Located on the west side of the road south of Alabama Jack's, and the toll booth, the shack was originally built by workers who constructed the toll bridge around 1968. In 1972 Ruby moved in and lived there for 27 years. She'd sit on the steps of her shack, with an old Colt 44 daring anyone to throw her off the land. She stayed. Not even the destructive forces of hurricane Andrew and the county's condemnation of the shack could send her from her spot on the bay on Card Sound. She moved to a trailer alongside and lived there until 1999 when she had to leave due to illness, and died at age 90.

Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography featuring original artwork of the **HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE OF DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND**



SCAN CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO PURCHASE



SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt in aqua, limeade and white



'Duo Muse' Art Collaboration now at the Islamorada Library

The Islamorada Library invites the public to visit the new Art Adventure titled **Duo Muse**, a female art collaboration, curated by local Visual Artist Marcia Brito, on display until April 3 at the Islamorada branch of the Monroe County Public Library (MM 82), during Library hours.

A Pre Morada Way Art Walk Event is scheduled on Thursday, March 19, from 4-6pm. There will be a Meet & Greet and exhibit tour with the artists at 5 PM. Patrons are welcome to leave their

cars parked at the Library lot and walk to the Art Walk.

With a passion for supporting the Fine Arts in the Keys, Brito's goal in this exhibit is to share her love for the arts with young kids - maybe future artists - who frequent the library on a regular basis and to beautify the community with original art. Paintings and photographs are on view. This is the third exhibit that Brito has curated at the Library.

Duo Muse has created a beautiful, life-size mermaid mural in the Community Room

of the Library, and provided templates of marine animals for guests to cut, color and affix to the mural. This family-friendly interactive activity is available throughout the exhibit. To participate, ask for materials at the front desk.

The collaborative exhibition presents the artworks of Marcia Brito and Susan Kay Holler side by side, creating an open conversation between two distinct yet complementary artistic practices, allowing relationships to emerge through visual proximity,

thematic overlap, and contrast.

Brito and Holler have each participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the Florida Keys with sustained success. Both artists maintain expansive portfolios that span multiple media and genres. This new collaboration marks a new chapter in their creative work, uniting their distinct voices in a shared visual dialogue.

A small collection of Brito's artworks is also available to the public at Our Place in Paradise gallery, 88711 Overseas Hwy in Tavernier.

Lighten Up!

1. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. A backward poet writes inverse.
11. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
12. Don't join cults: Practice safe sects.



ART SHOWS 2026

January 21-April 15 "Dive Into Art: Stories from the Sea"

The History of Diving Museum MM 82.9

February 4-25 "Photography Exhibit"

Our Place in Paradise Gallery MM 88.7

February 18-March 30 "Judged Art Show"

Dolphin Life Hospital MM 82.7

February 28 - "Botanical Show"

Francis Tracy Garden Center MM 94

March 7-30 "Wildlife of the Keys"

Our Place in Paradise Gallery MM 88.7

Year-round Exhibits:

Tassell Building MM 91.5

Key Largo Chamber of Commerce MM 106

Scan QR Code for RECEPTION DATES & visit www.agpi.us for more info

