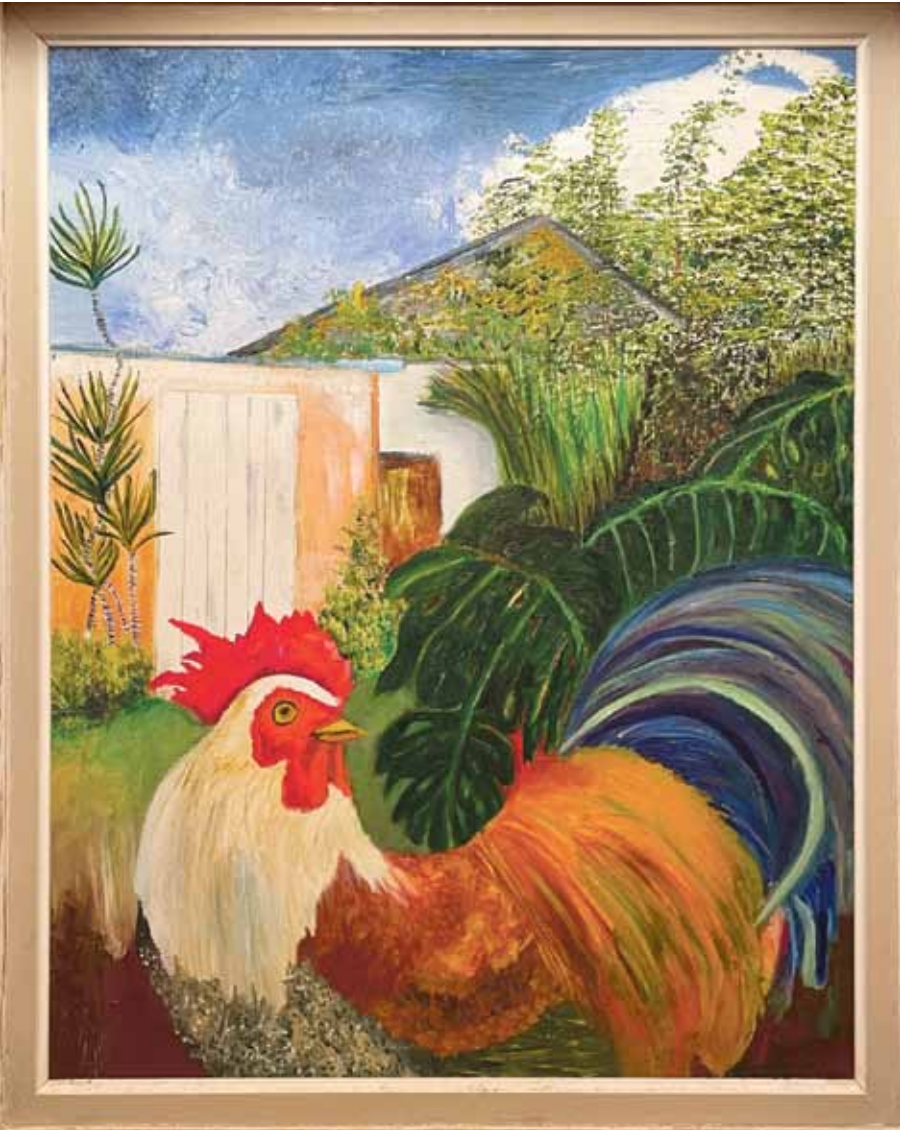




"GOOD MORNING" rooster and Ellen Chokreff start the day off right.



REDLANDS ROOSTER.



WASTEWATER ROOSTER.

Artists of the Month: Ellen Chokreff & Mary Bonde

by Karen Beal

Perhaps it is the Art of Friendship that makes these two artists special. Ellen Chokreff and Mary Bonde have shared creative energy for decades. Now they are sharing space at the Key Largo Library to exhibit their artwork through the month of September.

While working in the Keys in the 90s, Ellen Chokreff was curious to try something new and took a few oil painting classes at the Florida Keys Community College. When she retired in 2014 that interest in art had time to blossom.

Chokreff shared, "I was encouraged by Gin Todd to join the Art Guild of the Purple Isles (AGPI) where I found great support. Now I paint with acrylics as well as oils and even alcohol paint. I enter exhibits every season." She organizes the art exhibit at the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce.

The exhibit illustrates the balance of their long friendship.

Sharing the space and honoring each other's creativity.

Artists Continued

Mary Bonde sings a familiar refrain - she came to the Keys to get away from the cold — Wisconsin cold! She arrived with a B.S. in Fine Art and in 2012 she joined AGPI. Her art has taken several awards in the Guild's judged shows. Her "Flock of Ibis" Is currently on display at the "Beautiful Islamorada" show at Founder's Park through November.

Bonde is the chairperson of the team that install the Mariner's Hospital Tassell Medical Arts Building Art Show, Did you know there is a cool art show on the second floor? Free to enjoy.

"I paint with acrylics and oil and use my own photography as inspiration for my paintings. Some photos have been published. I enjoy painting abstract and realistic styles." Bonde stated, "I've always been an artist."

Happy to try new art ideas, Bonde has earned commissions painting logos on stock cars, and has worked with disadvantaged teens on The Hubbard Street Mural in Chicago.



FROG WORLD. Oil on canvas.



NOTHING TO SEE HERE. OIL ON CANVAS. Art Basil Miami entry,



ABSTRACT JUNGLE. Acrylic. Photo by Annette Nina.



FLOCK OF IBIS. On display "Beautiful Islamorada" show Founder's Park.



BIG TOOTHY GRIN. oil on canvas.