Artist of the Month: Jacqueline Campa

Jacqueline Campa is an award-winning artist in Key Largo. Her work has an original style that when you see it you know it's a "Campa" She makes use of subjective material in a playful, abstract juxtaposition. Boats, palms, local scenes of the Keys seem to move with the touch of her brush. She manages to create a whimsy with her work and adds personal touches that speak to people and create a bit of humor, for example, dogs howling at the moon with a bottle of Havana Club rum near by. Her work is about design and the use of expressive color and shapes. She certainly expresses this well in her Everglades paintings, where grasses seem to move with her strokes of reds, greens and blues.

Jackie grew up in Camden, Tennessee but was not introduced to the world of art until college. She attended Bethel College, graduating with a degree in Elementary Education, then continuing as lated for her acrylics, watercolor, and an art major at Middle Tennessee State University, focusing on abstract art. She is a Key Largo resident but also enjoys spending time in her Tennessee home.



Jackie with one of her award-winning pieces.

Jackie is a master artist, and a muchrespected member of the artist community. Her work has been in the Culture Magazine for the Keys Council of the Arts, her award ribbons have accumumixed media masterpieces. Notably, her piece titled "Go Play" received a second place ribbon in the 2012 Art Guild of the Purple Isles showing.

Jackie's artist friends can and do rely on her expertise to critique a piece of artwork. Fellow artist Teresa Kelley says, "If ever I feel something is off in a painting but just can't put my finger on it, I ask Jackie, and her critiques are always constructive and helpful." She will turn the piece upside down, so the attention is drawn away from what the subject of the painting is about, and the true composition is revealed, helping to expose any mistakes or problems areas. She relies on her keen eye to tell her whether proportions are correct and if the general flow of the painting is pleasing. She will check the values and find the points of interest that appeal to the viewer's eye. Her analysis of subject matter has helped fellow artists create more gratifying compositions.

Jackie is a member of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, where she has received many awards, and her artwork can be viewed at the Key Largo Art Gallery.

The Coconut Telegraph thanks Carmen Sotolongo Kelly for writing this article.



Senor Frijoles presents Key Largo's Original Music Festival, May 17-20



Joe Mama, Melody Guy, Bryant Diersing.

Multiple music happenings set the stage for music lovers during the fourth annual Key Largo Original Music Festival, featuring live and original performances, presented by Senor Frijoles, Thursday through Sunday, May 17-20.

Hit songwriters from Nashville, Tennesee and around the United States will perform during the four-day festival on various intimate stages. Individual singers and bands, both locally and nationally acclaimed, participate in the musical celebration.

These performers are among an elite group of musicians helping to shape the music industry today, excelling in genres that include pop, rock, blues, jazz and country.

Audiences can enjoy a range of tuneful offerings including the return of Nashville's Melody Guy, who has shared the stage with superstars Martina McBride and Keith Urban; Jamie Morgan (Christian pop originals); and the Saints of Havana trio with country rock and cultural influences featuring Cuban brothers Rey and Cesar Montecristo with American

The music continues Friday and Saturday at multiple bayfront stages set up at Sundowners Restaurant, Senor Frijoles, Cactus Jack's and Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, all located at mile marker 104 bayside in Key Largo.

Admission is free at all venues. Go to event website and performance schedule: www.keylargosongwriters festival.com or call 305-394-3736 for more details.

Photos courtesy of Paul White.





singer Aaron Shea. A return performance by young country artist Megan Conner, described as "a firecracker with Southern class and North ern sass" is scheduled, featuring songs from her latest album.

The festival is set to kick off with a 5 p.m. live show on Thursday, May 17, at Snapper's Waterfront Restaurant at 139 Seaside Ave., mile marker 94.5 in Key Largo.



Saints of Havana at Sundowners



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