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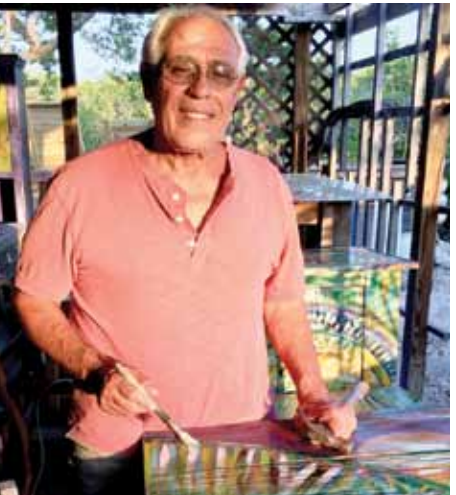
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Art Box Artist of the Month: **Mariano "Marty" Leone - Resurrection Wood**



There is an invisible creative spiritual portal somewhere on the 18-mile stretch that seduces artists like a magnet to the Florida Keys because here they find serenity and are appreciated for their uniqueness. The Keys are a melting pot of artists from all cultures who gravitate here to find the kind of peacefulness, beauty and acceptance that stimulates their creative juices.

It is a sort of cosmic pilgrimage for those artists who just come to visit and soak in the sunshine. This just makes the ones who have lived here their whole lives all the more special. Marty Leone is one such artist. There is so much art in the Keys to choose from that I must limit my purchases to just a few and I am thrilled to have my own original Mariano Leone on display at the Art Box. Can't wait to bring it home!



Here are some excerpts from Marty's bio:

"I was introduced at an early age to recycling. My dad was in the construction business, and my brother and I were his laborers. We cleaned the job sites, stripped the wood of nails and screws, and my father stored them for the next job.

"As a child, I learned to handle tools in wood shop. My father had wood working tools, and I used them to make benches, birdhouses and other simple projects. The local lumberyard let me forage their scrap wood.

"I always loved to draw and early on I could recreate all the Disney characters (I think there were only five, then); and I took art classes in school, through college. While I would have enjoyed

pursuing a career in art, my wife, Valli, and two sons required food, shelter and clothing on a regular basis; so I became a school teacher.

"I used to buy wood and make and paint odd pieces fashioned after country furniture. I found that in Monroe County there is a lot of discarded wood. An endless supply of raw materials is available to me; and the birds,



sea life, flora and fauna of the Keys give me an endless supply of subject matter.

"My craft enables me to recreate, recycle and restore the art that constantly surrounds us, which God gave us dominion over—the earth and all creation, the environment, His art."



Stop by the Art Box during September to visit Marty's amazing pieces. At the Art Box you can purchase art supplies and they have a schedule of classes.

It is never too late to start.



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