

Featured Artist of The Month: Jon Dreaver at The Art Box

Jon Dreaver, the owner of The Art Box with Key Largo Pack and Ship, has been selling art supplies, and mentoring up-and-coming artists, as well as teaching classes, tutoring, and helping give guidance to artists of all ages... for over five years.

When not in the shop, Jon is a board member for the education committee of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, where he works with the schools, helping to find mentors and funding for various art-related school projects throughout the Upper Keys.

Jon moved to the Florida Keys over 10 years ago with his entire family to open the Key Largo Coffee House which is now the Key Largo Conch House, a family restaurant at MM 100.2 Oceanside. Jon envisioned a coffeehouse with Internet café travelers from all over the world and artists working off of easels in the courtyard.

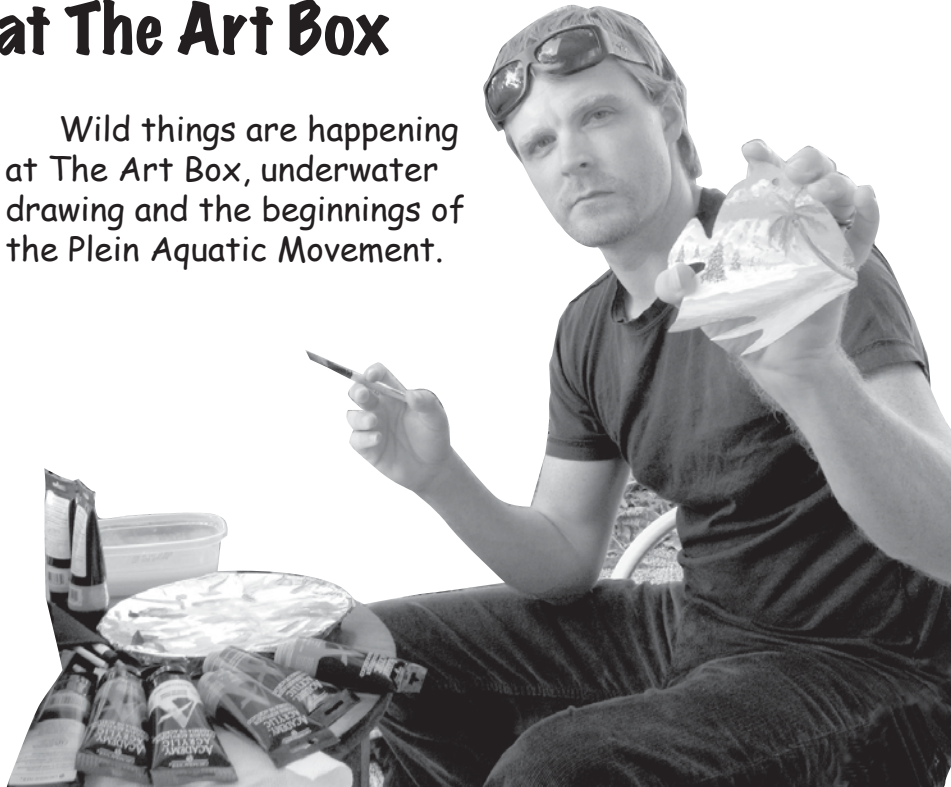
As the Coffee House turned more in the direction of a restaurant, Jon broke away from the family business with his wife Joanna, in pursuit of his vision for the arts in the Upper Keys by building an art store that could help the arts community. His store, The Art Box, has become a

staple in the Upper Keys for supplies and classes, and it has been a supporting member of the Morada Way Arts since its inception... as well as a supporter of the local art guilds and the Florida Keys Council of the Arts.

Jon's latest passion is the art of framing. As an artist, Jon has a genuine understanding of the difficulty artists face to present their work in an affordable fashion. So Jon began giving artist reviews for artists looking to learn how to price, present, and where they should focus their time displaying their work at shows, galleries, festivals, store fronts, or special events. Like many artists Jon struggles to find time to create for himself. More often than not he finds the only time to do art is when he's teaching a class. One of Jon's favorite classes to teach is The Wine & Paint class, for obvious reasons, which he teaches on Friday nights.

Jon recently teamed up with Lisa Mongelia with The History of Diving Museum and Jason Boone from Dive Documentaries to promote a new underwater sketchpad created by Boomer Gonzales of CMYK Printing Solutions called Tough Sketch. The team at Sailfish Scuba headed up the dive and this collaboration project called Underwater Portraits in Paradise had Jon sketching divers and reef scenes underwater at Molasses Reef by the winch hole and fire coral caves.

Wild things are happening at The Art Box, underwater drawing and the beginnings of the Plein Aquatic Movement.



Jon Dreaver in January, inspired by the tropics here in the Keys.



Jon teaches a painting class at The Art Box.



Framing – one more reason to visit The Art Box in Key Largo at MM 100.2 Oceanside.



The team that made it happen, (L-R) Jon Dreaver, Lisa Mondry, Boomer Gonzalez, & Jason Boone.



Tough sketch underwater sketchpad.



Jon at work sketching underwater.

According to Jon the newly repurposed paper performs well under all conditions above the surface and below, using graphite pencils. "This paper could revolutionize the plein air art movement and even start a new one we are calling Plein

Aquatic," said Jon. So if you need any help with your art, framing, need an art review, want to take classes, need supplies, or just want to meet an awesome guy, stop in at The Art Box and see what Jon can do for you.

JON & JOANNA DREAYER

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Sunday, November 22
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