

# Growing Up Without a Cell Phone

When I was a kid, adults used to bore me to tears with their tedious diatribes about how hard things were when they were growing up; what with walking 25 miles to school.... up hill... barefoot... BOTH ways...

I remember promising myself that when I grew up, there was no way I was going to lay a bunch of crap like that on my kids.

But now that I'm over the ripe old age of forty, I can't help but look around and notice the youth of today. You've got it so easy! I mean, compared to my childhood, you live in a damn Utopia! You don't know how good you've got it!

When I was a kid we didn't have the Internet. If we wanted to know something, we had to go to the library and look it up ourselves, in the card catalog!!

There was no email!! We had to actually write somebody a letter - with a pen! Then walk all the way across the street and put it in the mailbox, and it would take a week to get there! Stamps were 10 cents!

Child Protective Services didn't care if our parents beat us. Plus, the parents of all my friends also had permission to kick our asses!

There were no MP3s or Napster! If you wanted to steal music, you had to hitch-hike to the record store and shoplift it yourself!

Or wait around all day to tape it off the radio, and the DJ would usually talk over the beginning and @#\*% it all up! There were no CD players. We had a tape deck in our car. We'd play our favorite tape and eject it when finished. The tape would come undone and tangled, rendering it useless.

We didn't have Call Waiting! If someone called, they got a busy signal, that was it!

There weren't any freakin' cell phones either. If you left the house, you just didn't make or receive a call. You actually

had to be out of touch with your friends. And then there's TEXTING. Please! You kids have no idea how annoying you are.

We didn't have Caller ID either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was! You had to answer and take your chances.

We didn't have PlayStation or Xbox video games with high-res 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600 with games like Space Invaders and Asteroids. There were no multiple levels or screens, it was just one screen, forever! You could never win. It just kept getting harder and faster until you died! Just like LIFE!

You had to use a little book called a TV Guide to find out what was on! You were screwed when it came to channel surfing! You had to get off your ass and walk over to the TV to change the channel!!! NO REMOTE!!!

No Cartoon Network either! You could only get cartoons on Saturday morning. Do you hear what I'm saying? We had to wait ALL WEEK for cartoons, you spoiled little rat-bastards!

And we didn't have microwaves. If we wanted to heat something up, we had to use the stove! Imagine that!

Our parents told us to stay outside and play... all day long. Oh, no, no electronics to soothe and comfort. And if you came back inside... you were doing chores!

And car seats - oh, please! Mom threw you in the back seat and you hung on. If you were lucky, you got the "safety arm" across the chest at the last moment if she had to stop suddenly, and if your head hit the dashboard, well that was your fault for calling shotgun in the first place!

You kids today have got it too easy. You guys wouldn't have lasted five minutes back in 1970 or any time before!

Regards, The Over 40 Crowd

JON & JOANNA DREAYER

The Art Box

ART CLASSES • ART SUPPLIES  
RESTORATION • MATTING & FRAMING  
FRAMING SUPPLIES • CANVAS STRETCHING

Checkout our FEATURED ARTISTS

FULL ONLINE STORE: [www.ArtBoxKeyLargo.com](http://www.ArtBoxKeyLargo.com)

WITH KEY LARGO PACK & SHIP

Trust a Professional!  

- LOW COST PACKING MATERIALS/BOXES
- SHIPPING: FREIGHT & INTERNATIONAL
- CRATING & SHRINK WRAPPING



Plus! FAX • PRINT • SCANNING • LAMINATING  
COLOR COPIES • DIGITAL ARCHIVING

100650 Overseas Hwy 305-451-5461   
Key Largo 33037 [artlife@artboxkeylargo.com](mailto:artlife@artboxkeylargo.com)

KEYS PARASAIL & WAVE RUNNERS

Key Largo Bay Marriott Beach Resort, 103800 Overseas Hwy.  
[www.keysparasail.com](http://www.keysparasail.com)

305-731-9472



Jetski & Boat Eco Tours  
Sunset Cruises  
Stand Up Paddleboards  
Boat Rentals

KEYS ADVENTURES

Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, 104000 Overseas Highway  
[www.keysadventureswatersports.com](http://www.keysadventureswatersports.com)

305-731-9472

# Featured Artist of The Month: Brooke Spaulding



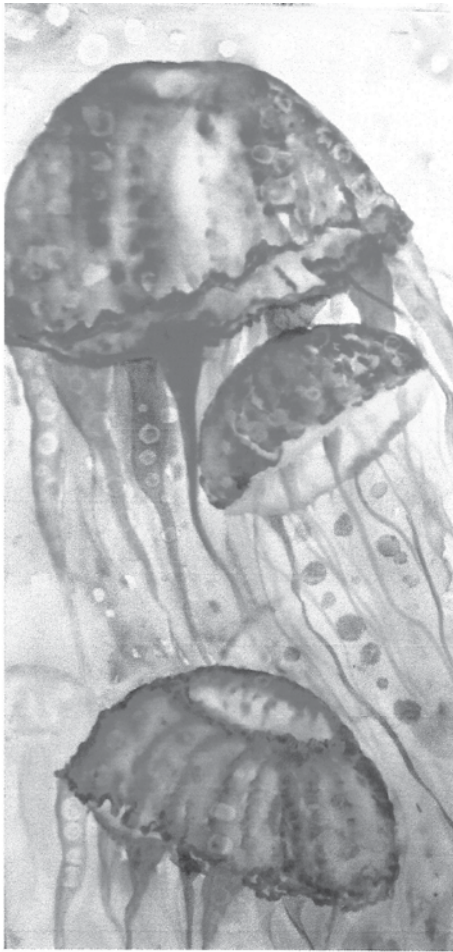
Brooke Spaulding acted on her passion and talent in fine art later in life. Reflecting on the reason, she realized a teacher unintentionally influenced her at a young age and discouraged her pursuit. It took 20 years to build the confidence to share her talent in several mediums; coloring, painting and drawing.

Brooke's innate, creative desire led to exploration in many areas. She learned to sew at the age of twelve. She studied different creative arts, and arts and crafts projects. She spent quite a bit of time writing poetry, exploring many aspects of talent and always in the spiritual pursuit. Her creativity was blooming in many areas.

Brooke progressed in parallel avenues, with a business career as a Personal Director sharing an apartment with two young business women, both fine artists. Brooke watched and admired their work. One day Brooke decided to sign up for night classes in beginning drawing. The professor started the first class with a blind contour lesson. Brooke felt safe doing that since she would not be judged for

drawing doing a blind contour. She was surprised that hers was just as good—or even better—than some of the others. She was elated and thought "If I can do this well without even looking, I should be able to do anything I want if I just look at my subject that closely." That evening she did her first still life at home at age 29.

Brooke moved to Texas with her husband and decided to go to art school full time. This was the



beginning of her new-found passion. She was hired by two of her art professors to help with their side art business and loved every art class she took. For the next few years, projects and opportunities came her way continually. She learned drawing, painting, sculpting, stained glass, etching, mosaic and more.

Brooke moved to Key Largo in 1998 to be close to a diving community. The inspiration was overwhelming and her

style of painting changed from abstract to having a distinct tropical flair. She was asked to teach children at the Academy at Ocean Reef. This was something she had never considered. She took the offer and felt inspired by the children.



She learned from them and loved the interaction and connection she had with them.

Today Brooke has had over 40 young artist come through her home studio. She has a special connection with each of them. Her goal is to make sure they feel accomplished with their pieces, to build self-esteem, to listen to problems and give positive advice, and to teach art to each individual by choosing styles and mediums that works with that child's abilities and style. The important thing is that they walk out with a smile on their face.

Her passion became the children and art was her medium.



Brooke's art can be found at Wear With All Boutique in Tradewinds Plaza next to Publix, where you can also find her mermaid-etched wine glasses which were featured on the Today Show with Kathy Lee Gifford.

She also has a web site where you can find her poetry and past works. [www.Brookeandco.com](http://www.Brookeandco.com).



Some of Brooke's students displaying their work

