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Artist of the Month: Gloria Avner
Around the World to Around the Keys by Karen Beal

Stop in at the Key Largo Library any time in June to enjoy the one-woman art exhibit featuring Gloria Avner.

Gloria's mantra is "Be open to life!" and she expresses that in her art with lively use of color, media and subjects.

Gloria attended U.C. Berkeley during exciting times in the late 60s. A bohemian-style world traveler in her 20s, she lived in London and journeyed through Morocco and India. For 40 years she studied, curated and sold tribal art from Africa and Indonesia at the Arteffects Gallery. She also studied at the respected John

Campbell Folk School in North Carolina and Bellas Artes in Mexico.

The world offered adventure and Gloria has maintained that zest for whatever life has to offer. She has studied bronze casting in Mexico, painting in Sri Lanka and Cambodia. She even contributed to an art project with Yoko Ono.

And she has much to offer Life. Well known for batik painting, a unique blend of watercolor and wax techniques, Gloria offers classes appropriate for any skill level. Layering paint,

ink and wax in a batik process that blends spontaneous color and lines has been a lifelong passion and one she is happy to share. Our Place in Paradise Gallery (mile marker 88.7) offers her classes seasonally. Gloria has also taught at the Key Largo Library.

Not surprisingly, she will take on a school classroom project to support a Peace theme or to beautify the welcoming doors of the Upper Keys Jewish Community Center with a Tree of Life. Her work reflects joy and an open heart.

Gloria exhibits regularly in the Art Guild of the Purple Isles shows. Her paintings

and writings have been featured in Culture magazine and in other publications. Her artwork is also available on FineArtAmerica.com.

"I feel my current work is on a subconscious track to bring light into the world we interact with - animals, oceans and people. It is not just decorative art you are bringing into your home - it is something that engages each viewer in a personal way."

Despite being known as a professional artist in both coastal Maine, her summer home, and the Keys for decades, Our Place in Paradise Gallery recently hosted her first solo show. Fellow artists and patrons packed the house on opening night!

Basking in the shows success, she said "The one thing I love about the Keys community, the art community in particular, is that it draws you in and makes you family."

