

SHIPWRECKS

OPEN 7 DAYS • 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM
KEY LARGO'S HIDDEN TREASURE!

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Happy Hour Happy Hour

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OPEN 6 DAYS: Monday-Friday 7:30am-6pm • Saturday 9am-2:30pm

Key Largo Branch Library Paint with the Masters

Join us for a series of adult art classes each based on the style of an artist. Learn about the painter and their work then try your hand at painting in a similar style.

Oct 24	Monica Bankowski	Van Gogh
Nov 14	Carmen Kelley	Yanoi Kusama
Jan 10	Marcia Brito	Van Gogh
Jan 17	Gloria Avner	Modigliani
Jan 23	Gisela Llorens	Monet
Feb 14	Diane Smith	Kahlo
Feb 27	Mary Ellen Holler	O'Keefe

CLASSES LIMITED TO 20 ADULT STUDENTS.
Check times: 1-5 pm. WAIT-LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Sign up will be available two weeks before each event.

Follow Key Largo Public Library on Facebook
bit.ly/keylargo-library-events
305-451-2396

Sponsored by the Friends of the Key Largo Library

Artist of the Month: Gisela Llorens Living the Colorful Life

by Karen Beal

A New Year's resolution in 2004 began an art journey for Gisela Llorens that changed her life. Dedicating more time and energy to something she loved but had neglected during child-rearing years and her career in bookkeeping - MAKE ART!

After trying several mediums and working on drawing skills, her love became soft pastels. These are sticks of luscious color pigments but more sensual and textured, layered and finessed to be as expressive as oil paints. "I liked the spontaneity, the color you put down is what you get and no waiting for drying and working directly with my hands was a plus." Llorens remembers.

But, as with most art, doing one thing only is not feeding the "creative monster." She is now working in acrylics which frees her in other ways. Mostly self-taught, she tries everything from portraits to landscapes.

While her home base is in Miami with fall spent in Denver, the Keys have been her winter destination for over a decade. She has been an active member in the Art Guild of the Purple Isles (AGPI) since 2015. "I love the art community I have through AGPI and our Plein Air Group. I like that the lifestyle and art scene are laid back."

Traditionally a representational artist, impressionistic moods have been weaving into her style. She can be found at the AGPI's plein air outings. The spontaneity of painting in a garden with changing light and other artists has allowed her to loosen her style.

She was commissioned to do some Van Gogh replicas last year and is working on another currently "Boy, have I learned about brushwork and impasto techniques by doing this!" she says.

Llorens shares her love of art in the community too. At the Key Largo Library she has taught a class in pastels and another in Gyotaku - the ancient Japanese art of fish rubbing. In January she will be teaching a class featuring the style of Monet at the library's Painting with the Masters series.

Creating, interacting with other artists and being inspired by the Keys has become a good life for Llorens. Her art is on display at the Key Largo Art Gallery. Art shows are plentiful during the winter months in the Upper Keys and Llorens enters many and often brings home a ribbon.

Visit giselallorens.com



"What a Character" (acrylic). Pet portraits can be done on commission.



"Francheska" a portrait (soft pastel). "Sometimes just an interesting expression, mannerism or the play of light sparks my curiosity and inspiration."

BELOW: "If Van Gogh had lived in the Keys" (acrylic) another donation to the FL Keys Council of the Arts Connections project in 2025.



"Standing Alone" (soft pastel) won 2nd place Plein Air Category Juried Show AGPI 2023.



"Matilde the Manatee" (acrylic) inspired by the children's book "Snorkel McCorkle and the Lost Flipper." This piece will be entered into Dive Show: Stories from the Sea Exhibit at the History of Diving Museum starting January 2026.

PILHOUSE

It's Back!
Sunday Brunch
11 AM to 2 PM

Complimentary Glass of Champagne, Mimosa or Bloody Mary with each Entrée

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