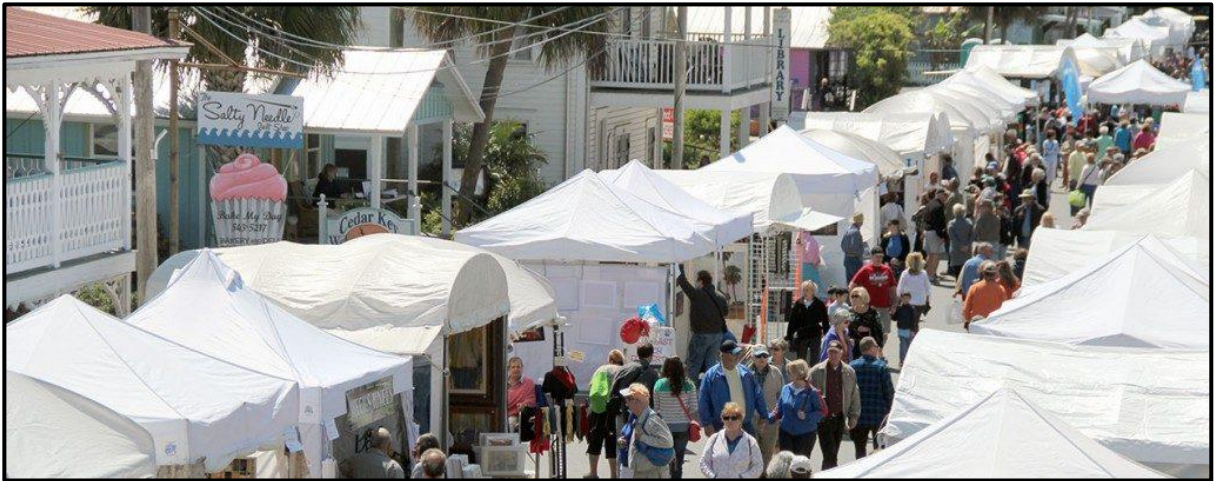


Coming Soon - Old Florida Celebration of the Arts!
A Profile of One of the Artists - Janet Herman



One hundred artists will line both sides of 2nd Street in Cedar Key at the 59th year of the **Old Florida Celebration of the Arts**, April 1st and 2nd. The festival is considered one of the country's best juried small town art festivals.

If you're fortunate enough to attend the festival, you will see a variety of fine art disciplines (painting, ceramics, drawing/printmaking, wood, sculpture, fiber, photography, and mixed media) - some may appeal to your tastes, others may not, but surely there's something for everyone. Often festival goers can be overheard making comments like, "That doesn't look so hard, I could do that."

Learning more about how the work is created can be eye opening. An example of which is textile artist, Janet Herman, who received last year's Cedar Key Arts Center Creativity Award, and therefore has been invited to return to the festival this year. If you visit her booth, be sure to look carefully at her work to see what at first appears to be watercolor paintings. Up close you can examine the finer details created using a multiple step process. Let's hear how she does it in her own words.





“When describing my style, I would say much of my fiber artwork is impressionistic. It all started with hiking trips and exploring the back country that inspired photos... that inspired paintings... that demanded texture. My mixed media fabric paintings begin as sketches from my photography. They are then transferred to white cotton fabric that is developed with resists and acrylic paint mixed with fabric mediums. These original paintings are stabilized with high heat to bond the paint to fabric, creating a durable surface. For stability while sewing, fabric backing layers are added behind the painting. To detail and sculpt dimension in my painting, I use thread - drawing with a sewing machine. This is called hand-manipulated free-motion machine stitching. Finished works are stretched over a board or internal frame.”



***“I create what expresses my vision of nature,
with a wink toward realism.”***

So, take Highway 24 west until you reach the Gulf and the town of Cedar Key. The festival, sponsored by the Cedar Key Arts Center, will be held April 1 (10am - 5pm) and April 2 (10am - 4pm). In addition to the outstanding art, visitors will enjoy local seafood, baked goods, music, and children’s activities in City Park. For more information about the festival go to www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com