

Congratulations Judi Cain – 2025 Old Florida Celebration of the Arts Desing Contest Winner



At 5 years of age Judi Cain knew she wanted to be an artist. From the crayons she cherished as a child through experimentation with colored pencils, charcoal, ink, watercolor, pastels, oil, and acrylic, Judi has had a passion for painting everything from picture perfect portraits to “creative energy” abstract paintings. After receiving her BS in Art Education, Judi taught art for 7 years before setting out as a “real artist” to do Art Festivals around the country with her future husband.

Judi’s love affair with Florida began soon after she and her husband settled in Gainesville in 1978. She remembers falling in love with Spanish Moss, which she calls “Florida’s icicles” because of the way it sparkles in the sunlight. Her fondest memories of Florida over the past 50 years however come from her many visits to Cedar Key. First with her daughters on weekend road trips when they would sit on the old “Big Dock” and paint and later as she took thousands of photographs that later inspired many of her paintings.

In 2006, after retiring as founder and manager of Center Stage, a legendary costume and magic shop in Gainesville, Judi joined the Cedar Keyhole Artist Co-op. She treasures the many times that she would drive in early or stay late to take pictures and walk around town “just like she lived there.” The haunting black and white photograph Judi used as a reference for her entry in this year’s Old Florida Celebration

of the Arts Design Contest was taken in 2017, several years after fire had closed Coconuts & Rusty Rim (formerly known as The Captains Table) and storms had taken away one of Cedar Keyen's favorite spots to watch sunset. The painting, which includes the last remaining timbers of the iconic Honeymoon Cottage caught in the eye of a multicolor Cedar Key sunset brings back fond memories for all who have loved Cedar Key through the years.

Just before learning that she won the OFCA Design Contest, Judi, now 80, moved to West Virginia to be closer to her daughters. Judi said that Winning the Design Contest has inspired her to paint miniature Cedar Key paintings based on photographs she has taken through the years. She will be selling these paintings at the OFCA April 5 & 6. In addition, she is writing a memoir entitled "Life is Art." You can follow Judi and get a sneak preview of her paintings on her Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/JudiCainArtist/>

For more information about the 2025 Old Florida Celebration of the Arts April 5 & 6, go to www.CedarKeyArtsFestival.com.