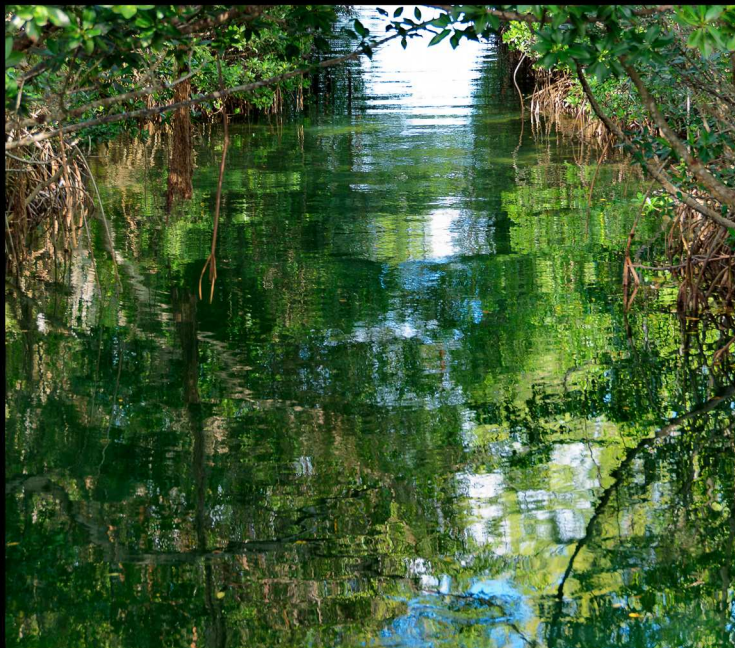




# HUMAN ~ NATURE

by Carol Ellis





The Ocean Reef Art League

presents

HUMAN ~ NATURE

Photographs

By

Carol Ellis

Please join us for the

Opening Reception

February 18, 2014

5 to 7 P.M.

Exhibition Ends February 28th

*How did you decide on the  
"Human ~ Nature" theme?*

The title for the show is a play on words uniting two bodies of photographic work, taken 25 years apart.

I believe human nature causes humans to become what they become.

This past summer I set out on a journey of sorts. To achieve my stated goal of living a more productive "exceptional" life, I had to face up to a problem area. A problem caused by a most typical human nature trait; that of procrastination.

I needed to organize and scan years of old film negatives...that so I could move forward and focus on the present. Using my new mantra - Do Not Give UP, I adopted work habits and soon these old negatives came to life.

The preserved film negative scans and my current work taken with a state of the art Hasselblad digital camera make up the exhibit.

*Humans and Nature  
have traits in common:*

*Both are:*

*everywhere ...  
disappearing ...  
persistent ...  
and ever changing.*

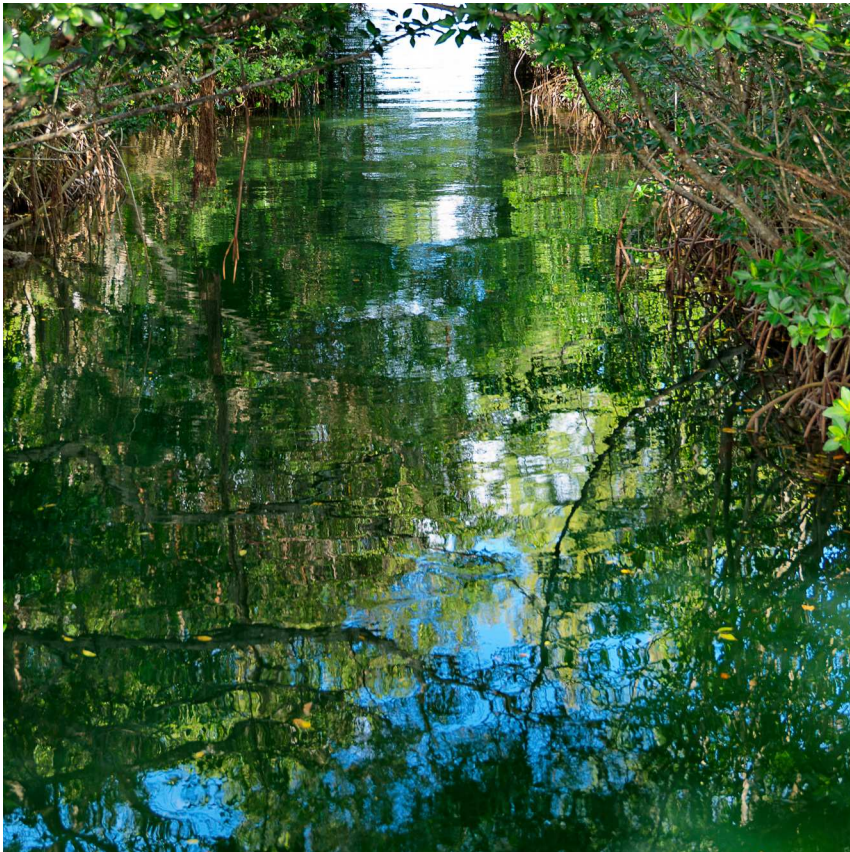




The photos I take from my heart almost never have any evidence of "human" involvement.

I seek places that are wild and serene, usually at the water's edge or native woods. I will revisit the place at different times of day, and weather conditions. Often enough to get a sense of place... to really get to know it. I will take about 50 photos each visit, varying the exposure, focus and vantage point.

The magic comes when the mechanical settings of the camera and the environmental conditions come together.



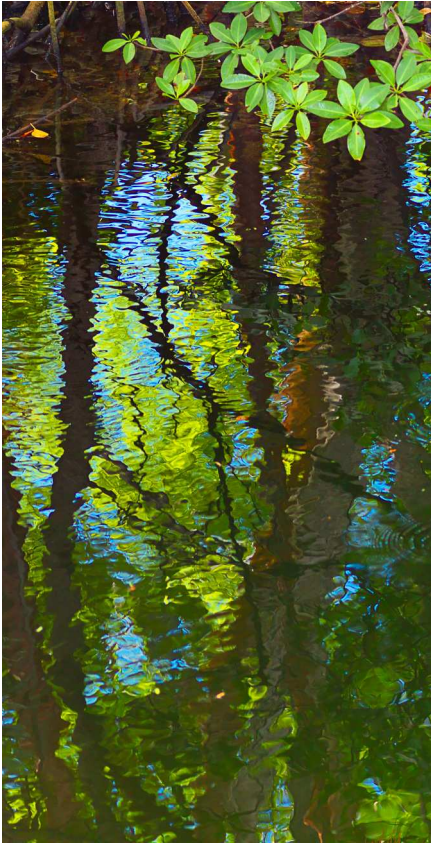
Monet Reflections #1  
Snapper Point, Ocean Reef

42" x 42" plexi dual mount metallic print



Monet Reflections #2  
Snapper Point, Ocean Reef

42" x 42" plexi dual mount metallic print



Mangrove Serenity  
Snapper Point, Ocean Reef

22" x 50" plexi dual mount metallic print

On one occasion, during  
a visit to my special place  
I sensed a shot, however  
the water needed  
cleaning Evidence of  
man, a landscaper's  
freshly mown grass  
clippings, float on the  
surface. I grabbed a net,  
and while in the process  
of cleaning the surface,  
the splashing of water  
attracted a large manatee.  
Next a small nurse shark  
swam by... the place was  
alive. I thought now all I  
needed was a bird to  
perch on the mangrove  
roots by the shore. As I  
position myself behind  
the camera, a green heron  
flew in and perched.

I felt as if I were Dr.  
Doolittle on an animal  
adventure!





Snoopy Point  
Card Sound View, Ocean Reef

34" x 23" plexi dual mount metallic print



*Do you seek these great shots  
or do they just happen?*

I seek great places, and  
happen to photograph  
them.

Prior to and since thirty  
years ago when I made  
the move from my  
hometown Ft. Lauderdale,  
then experiencing a  
building boom and  
resulting decline in water  
quality and increase in  
population, I have been in  
search of a simpler, more  
unspoiled Florida.

The Card Sound Fishing  
Village was that first little  
piece of heaven that I  
encountered, though I  
ended up in another  
"fishing village"...  
that of Ocean Reef.

The show has photos from  
both locations, plus the  
Bahamas and Key Largo.

The exhibit contains a collection of my photographs that were scanned. These photos were taken between 1987 and 1996 using a Canon 35mm camera and Kodak Infrared Film. The scanned negatives I then digitally hand-colored, my inspiration coming from the old hand-colored postcards of the 1950's. Coloring the images brought the people and places to life.

The camera's greatest gift to mankind is that it allows us to record a moment in time so that we might share those memories, and in so doing, we honor the lives of the people, the places and their way of life.

Vanished, changed or gone.  
As treasures they remain.



Top Photo: Card Sound Fish Camp - 1959  
Below: Ocean Reef Club and Yacht Harbor  
Hand-colored postcard circa 1960





Nature has shaped the historic fishing village of Card Sound over the years. At one time over 100 people lived there.

Fred's Place - the Tilton Hilton - with it's slanting dance floor, blue crabs and cold beer, was located on the curve north of Alabama Jacks. Disregard the no trespassing sign in the photo; it was put up by squatters who moved in after State inspectors shut the place down. What a pity... I remember the time I rented a boat and motor, only to take off and have it break down just the other side of the Card Sound bridge.

Where can one seek out an adventure these days?

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew dealt a blow which eventually changed the area forever. The hurricane swamped at least five Card Sound houseboats and ruined the stilt home of 84-year-old legend Ruby Stern, who lived a few yards from the \$1 toll bridge that crosses Card Sound to North Key Largo. Ruby, who in 1973 moved into a shack left by the construction work of the new toll bridge, as a result of hurricane Andrew, was sleeping in a tent on the rocky ground.

Later friends delivered a trailer, eventually she left.

A few stuck it out, namely Alabama Jacks and others on the south side of the Monroe County line. However the politics of environmental safety brought in the clean-up crew, and now the area is safe from all non-conformists.



Alabama Jacks  
Downtown Card Sound, N. Key Largo

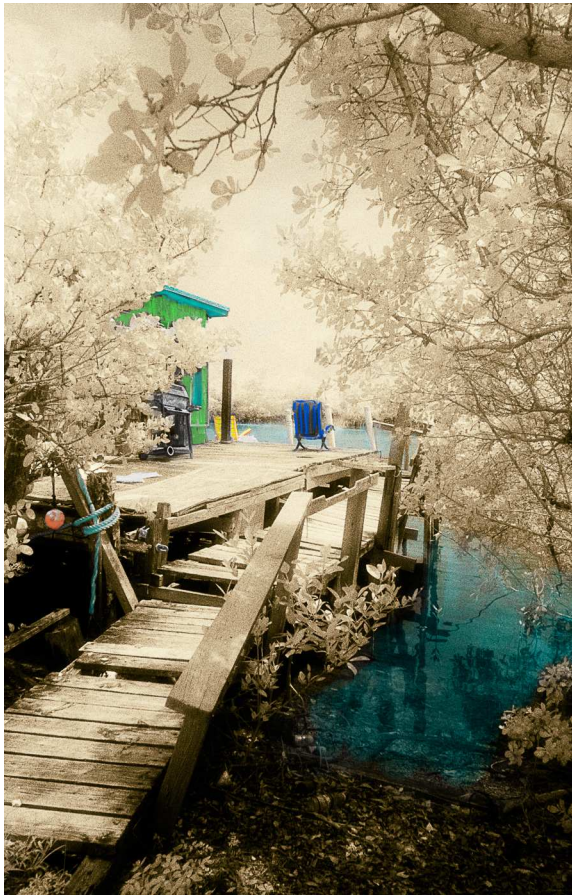
18" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper



Ruby Stern  
Downtown Card Sound, N. Key Largo

18" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper (Above)  
9" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper (Opposite Page)





Chair  
Downtown Card Sound, N. Key Largo

9" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper





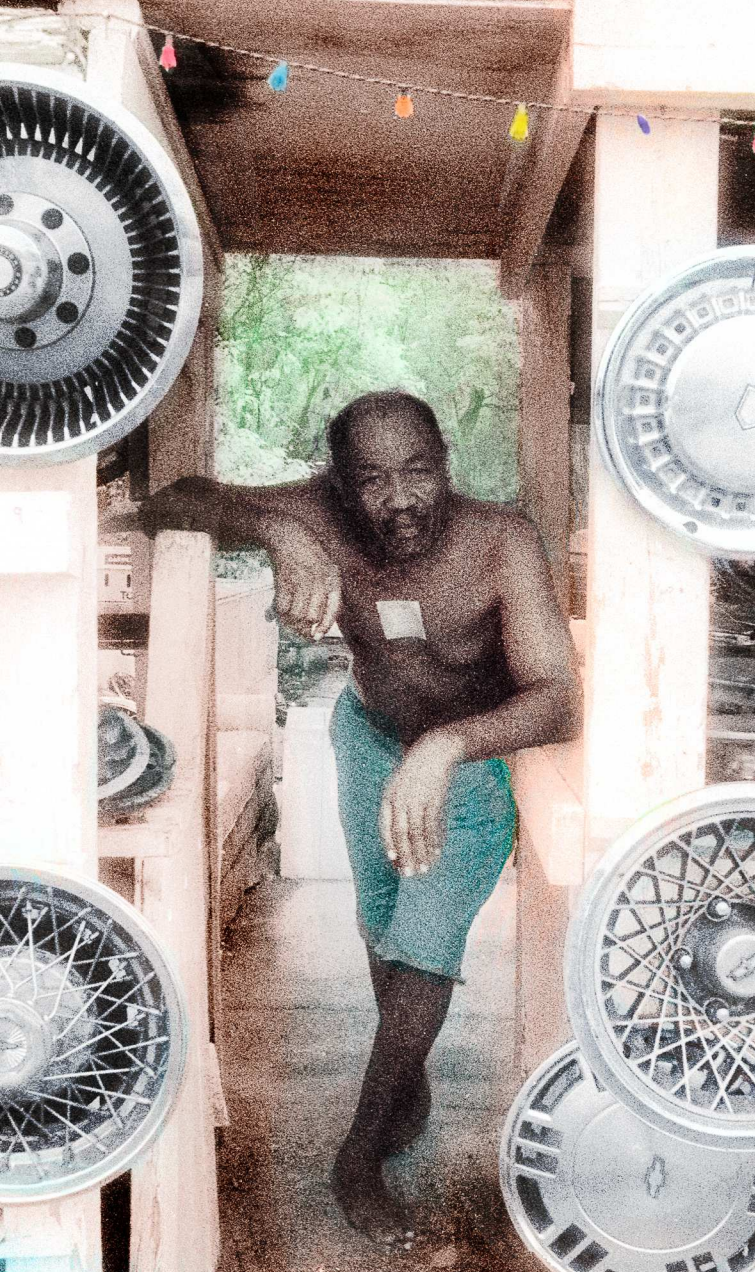
Lobster Traps  
Downtown Card Sound, N. Key Largo

15" x 10" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper



Fred's Place ~ Cold Beer  
Downtown Card Sound, N. Key Largo

18" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper

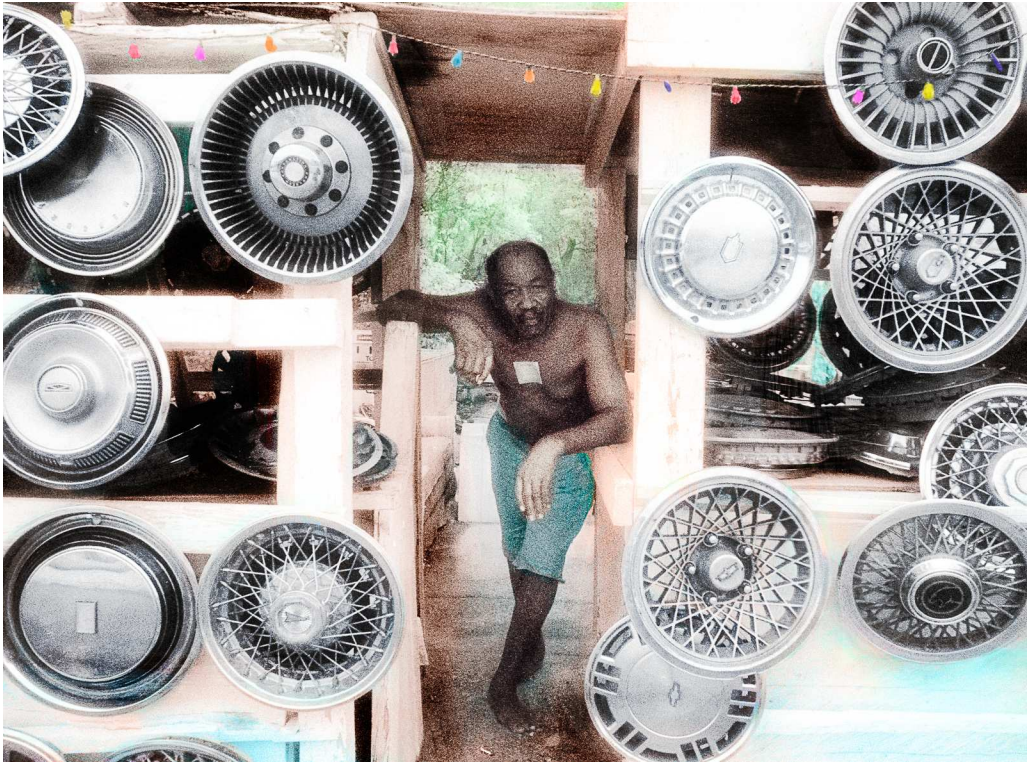


In a simpler time, a person could earn a living by selling tomatoes or even hubcaps from a roadside stand, made from makeshift building materials and a hand painted sign.

This was an informal economy where resourceful people made do with what was at hand. People knew "Jap" Smallwood had a collection of hubcaps, so they'd bring them to him. He was poor, yet colorful; the first recycler.

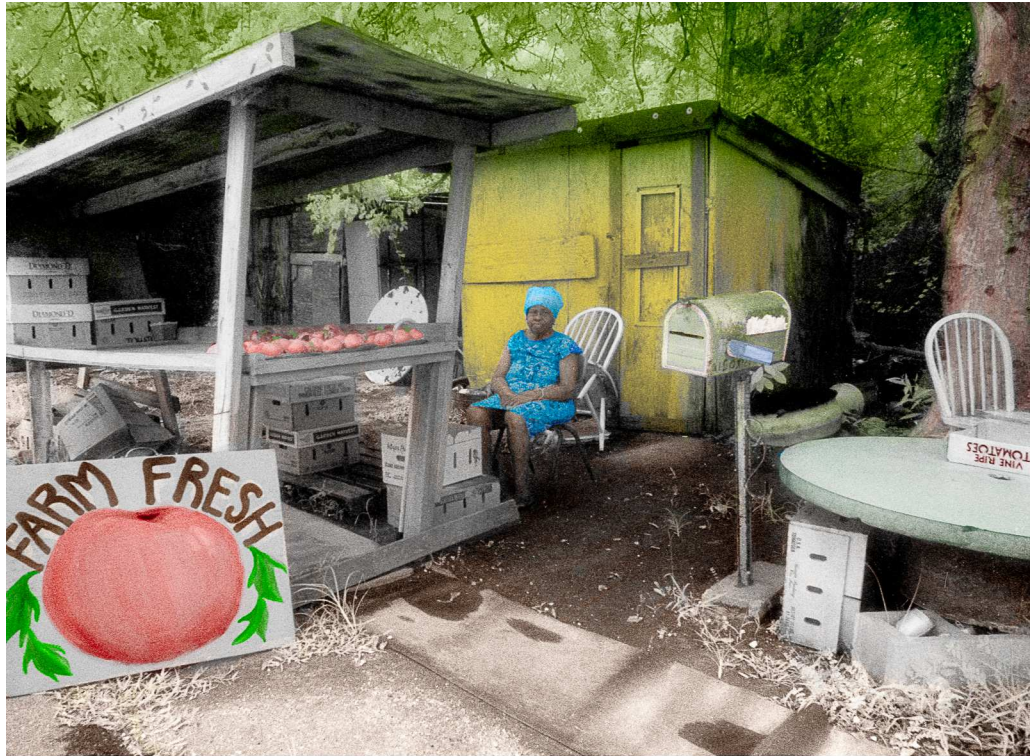
When in 1984 I moved to the Keys, my friends asked why I'd head to a place where the only people living there were a bunch of fishermen. I replied, the water quality is more like I remember growing up in Ft. Lauderdale in the 1960's.

Clean water - not only is it vital for all life, it's essential for the human spirit and creativity.



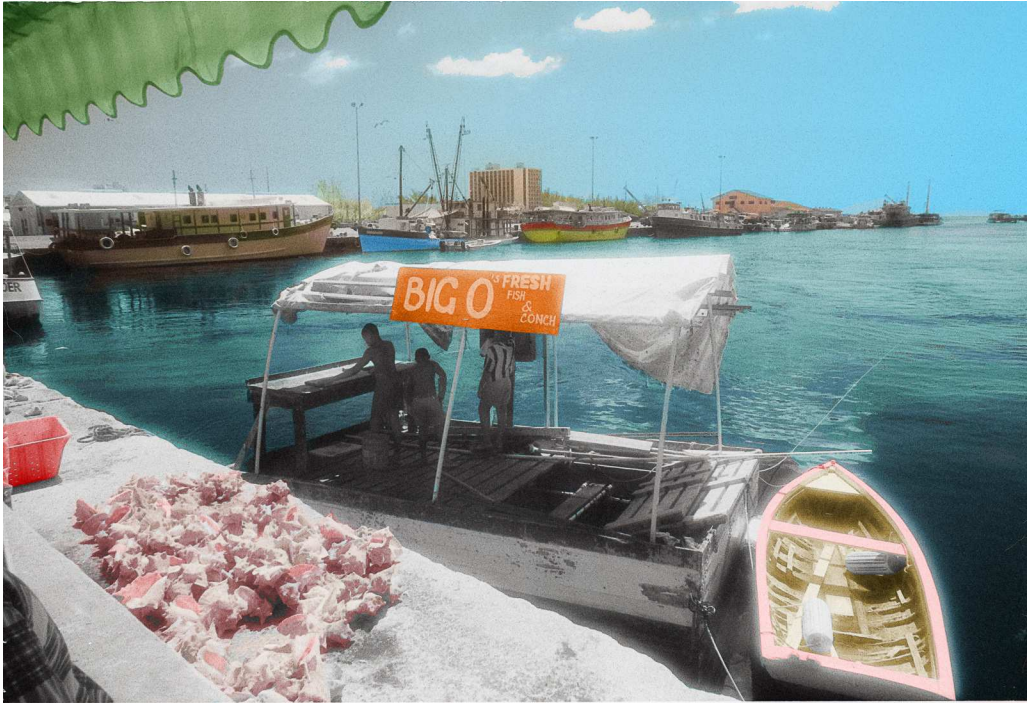
William "Jap" Smallwood  
Hibiscus Park, Key Largo

16" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper



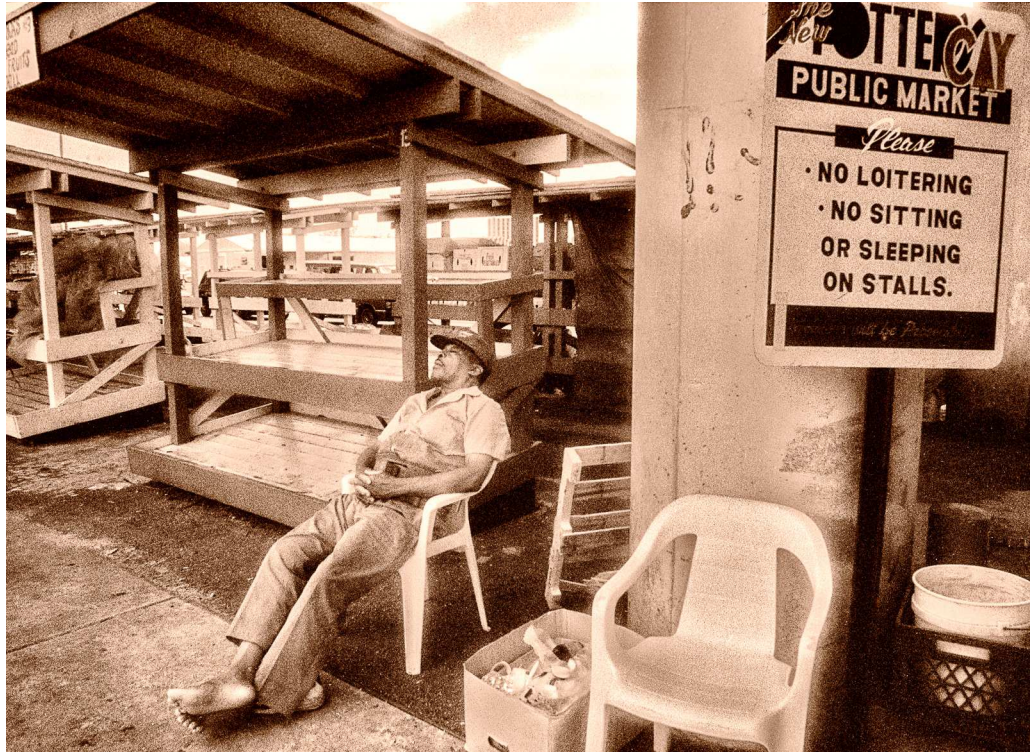
Miss Kathleen Dean  
Hibiscus Park, Key Largo

16" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper



Big "O"  
Potter's Cay, the Bridge to Paradise Island, Bahamas

16" x 12" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper

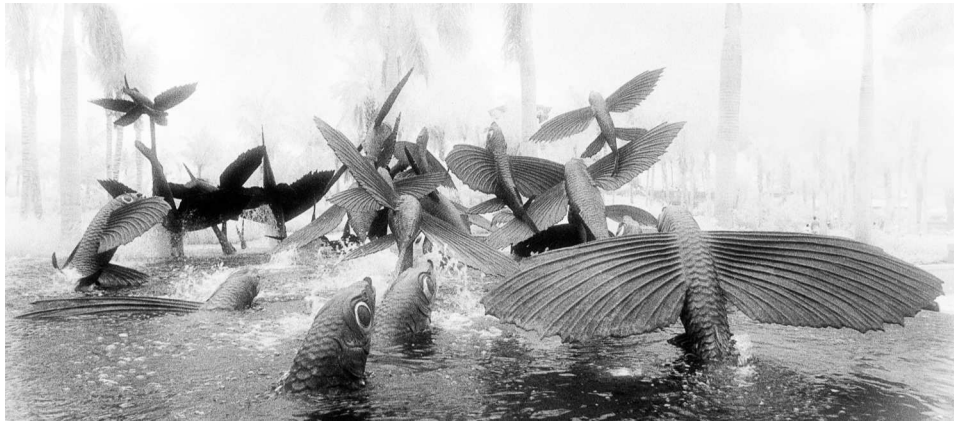


No Loitering  
Potters Cay, under the Bridge to Paradise Island, Bahamas

9" x 6" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper

Flying Fish of Atlantis  
Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island, Bahamas

18" x 12" ultrachrome pigment prints on bamboo paper





*Inspired by Nature*

As I ponder the concept  
of HUMAN ~ NATURE

I ask:

*What is Human?*

*Where is Nature?*

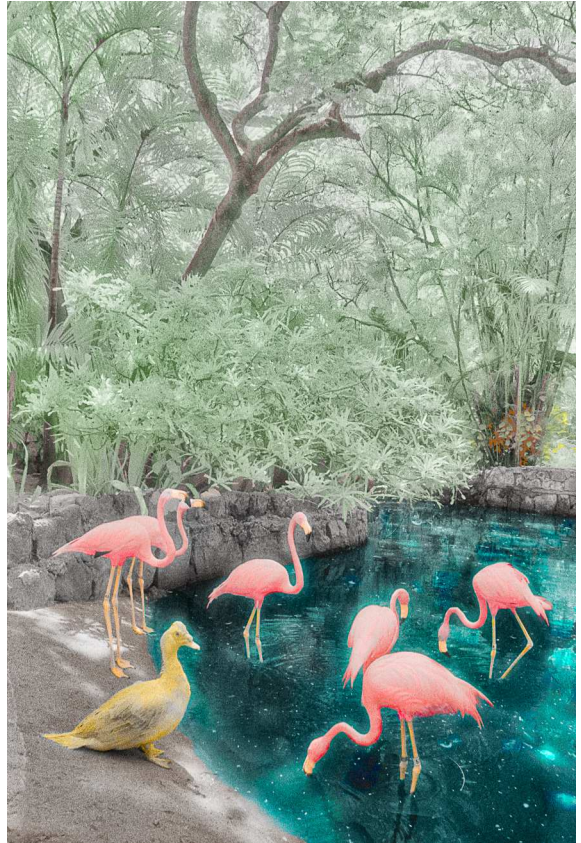
*When is Nature Human?*

*What happens when the  
two variables merge?*

The photos in this exhibit  
were taken on the edge of  
nature, at water's edge, or  
along the side of the road.

I'm not too certain I am  
suited for the "wild"  
nature of pioneer days.

Just give me a little  
nature, so I may focus,  
breathe and replenish my  
soul.



Flamingo Attraction - Ardasta Gardens  
New Providence Island, Bahamas

12" x 16" ultrachrome pigment print on bamboo paper

## **CAROL ELLIS / LITTLE SALT**

**MEDIUM:** Photography

**SUBJECTS:** The Natural Environment

**EDUCATION:** BA: University of Florida College of

Journalism; Photographic Workshops throughout the world

**AFFILIATIONS:**

American Society of Media Photographers

Fla. Keys Council of the Arts - past advisory board member

Ocean Reef Art League Member and Instructor

Leadership Monroe County Class IX

Monroe County Master Gardener

Little Salt Photography, owner - Events - Family Portraiture

**EXHIBITIONS:**

N. Key Largo Hammocks Botanical Site

January 1999, Ocean Reef

The Seasons of Fisheating Creek

April 2000, Ocean Reef

Transitions - Ocean Reef Art League

March 2001, Ocean Reef

Art in Public Places - Commissioner Nelson's Office

September 2001, Key Largo

Art in Public Places - Key West Airport - May 2002

Crocodile Lake Centennial Celebration - March 2003

Art in Public Places - Commissioner Murphy's Office

November 2006, Key Largo

Be The Bee - Ocean Reef Art League

January 2007, Ocean Reef

After the Cold - Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge

April 2010 - Big Pine Key

**DOCUMENTARY:**

The Fragile Keys - PBS Documentary

Photographer and Post Production - 2001

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Florida 24/7 - Published October 2004, DK Publishing Co.

Photographs of the Florida Keys - May 2003

Culture - The Florida Keys and Key West

Monet Relaxation #1

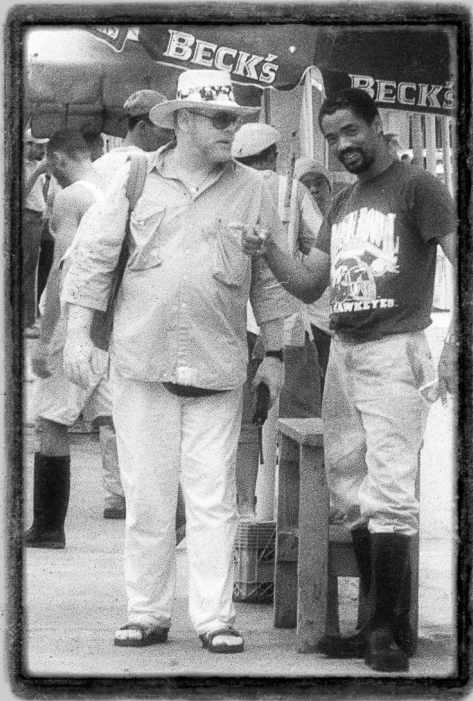
**RECOGNITION:**

GLEE 2009 Individual Green Living Award Recipient

**WEBSITE:** [www.lilsalt.com](http://www.lilsalt.com) | [www.carolellis.com](http://www.carolellis.com)

**EMAIL:** [carol@lilsalt.com](mailto:carol@lilsalt.com)





One last photo and special mention for my husband and best friend Ted, who traveled and stood by me, and drank beer wherever I wanted to go. In this photo a Bahamian fisherman points at Ted with one hand, the other clutching a "Bill Clinton" \$3 dollar bill that Ted gave him. Understand, the Bahamas have legal tender \$3 dollar bills. The natives couldn't get enough of these bogus "Bills". I must say I was very relieved when our plane took off from the island, and Ted was not "Up the Hill" in prison.

*HUMAN ~ NATURE*

*Live a little. Laugh a lot.*

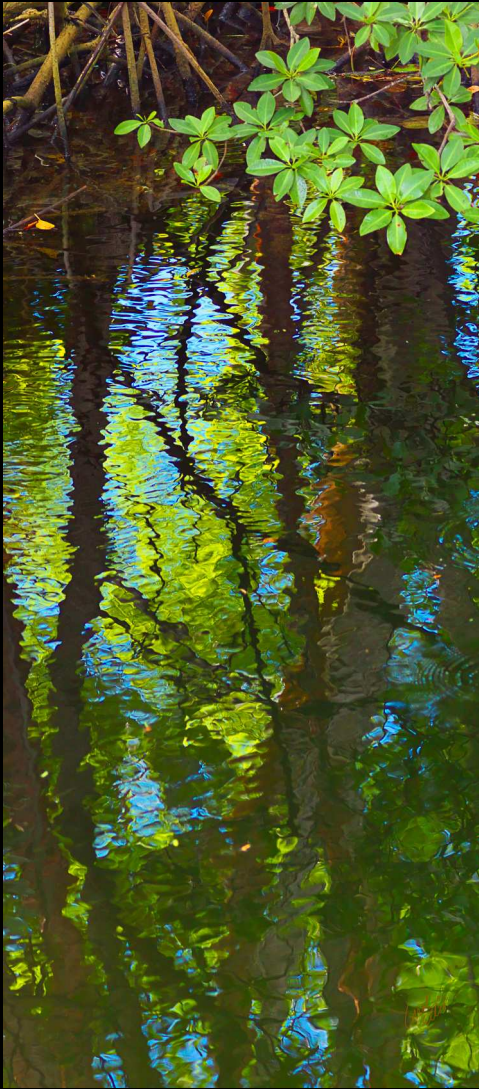
*Dream. Scheme. Give thanks.*

*Tread lightly, both are fragile.*



Designed using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom





Mangrove Serenity  
Snapper Point, Ocean Reef

by Carol Ellis