

“Between The Tides” – Artist Ron Garrett

Biscayne National Park - Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery
9700 SW 328 Street Homestead, FL 33033 Tel: 305-230-7275

Merging Art, Archaeology and Conservation, Artist Ron Garrett will exhibit mixed media sculptures, paintings, linocuts and etchings of marine life and shipwrecks in Biscayne National Park waters

Exhibit on Display January 29 – April 6, 2018

Full Moon Archaeology Presentation/Artist Reception - Saturday, March 3, 6-9pm

Ron Garrett – Artist/Printmaker/Educator has exhibited in numerous one-person and group shows over his 30 year art career – including a visiting artist sojourn to Bangalore, India, where he curated a touring international exhibition of American Printmakers. He has an MFA in Printmaking from Kent State University, OH and a BFA from Guilford



College, NC. He also studied drawing and painting at Ringling College of Art and Design, FL.

Currently, Ron is founder of “RAGA PRESS” a fine art printmaking atelier in Boca Raton, Florida.* He also teaches visual art at St. Andrews School, Boca Raton and conducts workshops at the Art Armory in West Palm Beach.

Ron Garrett’s work in “Between the Tides” stems from his love of the National Parks and his fascination with sunken ships, marine life, relics, and tales of

ancient mariners and pioneers. Upon discovering Boca Chita key and Biscayne National Park a few years ago, he discussed his curiosity for this body of water with Park Ranger Gary Bremen, and the seeds for this show took root. Collaborating with Park Archaeologist Joshua Marano and discovering the many wrecks that occurred along the treacherous reefs of South Florida’s jagged keys, Ron created works to honor the ships and life, now preserved as the Maritime Heritage Trail.

“Growing up along the Atlantic waters of Florida, I was always fascinated by the maritime tragedies buried below. History is full of epic disasters involving naval and merchant vessels on the high seas. Some were victims of brutal attack while others were lost to natural disasters. But the story doesn’t end there. My sculptures are meant to remind the viewer that once a stricken vessel lies on the bottom, a new life begins, as corrosion brings marine algae and coral, and the slow buildup of reef life. Combining



recycled materials and everyday found objects, I build each layer over time, finally adding a liquid skin of rust patina. My "sunken fleet" and "figurehead" sculptures represent an ongoing process of change and corrosion to man-made objects. Each ship sings its own special song of the tragedy of lives lost and the bravery of the human spirit. The focus is on the poetry of the forces of nature, decay as well as the corrosive power of saltwater on human endeavors. I hope to resurrect each piece with its unique story, and give it a voice for all to enjoy!”

A significant portion of Biscayne Lady and Mandalay are created from marine debris found in the Park waters as an Alternative Spring Break clean-up project in 2017.

The large ships are monoprints using oil paints and pulled on a press, while others are reductive linocuts, created by cutting away one block multiple times for each color and running a very limited edition through a press. Here Ron is inking the Fowey Rocks at Dawn block in his studio. He also has large oil and watercolor paintings and a selection of small etchings in the show.

“Through art, I hope to educate visitors to Biscayne National Park about centuries of marine heritage that exists right here in our historic national treasure in South Florida. Enjoy the show, and contact me or the Park with any questions!”



* RagaPress - a full service print atelier has 4 vintage etching presses and offers:

- ***Instructional art classes or studio/press time for emerging artists;***
- ***Contract printing for artists seeking to edition their work;***
- ***Prints, paintings, sculpture and fine art available for purchase;***
- ***Design services for your business, home or private collection – large pieces of original art can be commissioned to meet individual preferences.***

Ron Garrett can be contacted at his studio in Boca Raton FL at E: ron@ragapress.com T: 561-483-9923. www.ragapress.com

For more information about the work in this show visit: www.garrettartgallery.com