



270 Irvin Garrish Hwy.

PO BOX 1719

Ocracoke, NC 27960

252-928-4400

[downcreekgallery@yahoo.com](mailto:downcreekgallery@yahoo.com)

For Information Contact: Marissa Gross

### **Barbara Adams**

*Adams collection of paintings portrays Ocracoke Island, and natural elements of the outer banks and surrounding areas. Adams says she "Tries to paint weekly, that there is a beauty in Ocracoke's little village that has always inspired her painting.*

*Barbara Adams work has consisted of oils, watercolors, and even resin over the course of her career. She has been known to add elements such as raised surfaces and images on wooden boards and canvas, which she then coats in resin to complete the piece. She prefers to construct her own frames out of seashells and found objects, to complete painted works on canvas. In addition to mixed mediums, the artist also carves block prints, creating vibrant and intricate prints that showcase seashore themed images.*

*"I enjoy capturing light and shadows which sometimes leads me to new challenges and techniques. With a combination or mixture of impressionism in the background, I attempt to bring out a realist image."*

### **Kitty Martin Mitchell**

*Kitty Martin Mitchell's work is greatly inspired by her father Charles R. Martin, who was a photographer. Mitchell also mentions many other artists; "inspired her while growing up, as well as Ocracoke Island, its natural beauty, and its residents."*

*Kitty explores multiple mediums, oils, graphite, and acrylic paint, utilizing many themes within her paintings that bring attention to world events. Kitty earned a Bachelor of Art with a focus in Studio Arts at The University of Pittsburgh and has been painting ever since.*

*Mitchell currently instructs the Art program at Ocracoke School. She takes great pleasure and pride in “watching young artists bloom.” Mitchell believes that teaching has allowed her to stay in touch with the creative playfulness of children. As well as adding a very inspiring element to her work as she incorporates some of the fearlessness of children into “playing with paint and images.”*

### **Mary Bassell**

*Mary Bassell moved permanently to Ocracoke, NC in the mid 1990's. The artists' creativity and self-expression in her glorious Pastels, is well represented via liveliness and color, as well as through multifaceted sea spirited subject matter. The artist began to paint and utilize “pure pigment pastels” frequently upon moving to the island full time. Her favorite subject matter was right out her doorstep. The sea, sand dunes, water studies, and flora and fauna alike, are just a few of the artists favorite themes.*

*For 16 years, Bassell has explored the light and shadows that Ocracoke has to offer. She mainly paints “plein aire” and one can often spot her out on the beach dunes, and or South Point Rd. in the early morning light, and or evening purple dusk. The artist prefers to be out in the “fresh air” immersing herself in the natural beauty of the island, when she is creating new works.*

*Bassell has a working studio on the Back Rd., where she conducts regular pastel painting classes to suit both beginners and advanced artists of all ages.*

### **Debbie Wells**

*“I have been making artwork since the early 1990's and consider myself largely self-taught. I work almost entirely from my own imagination, and am inspired by tribal and folk art. I used water-based media and work mostly on board, some of which I carve and embellish with jewels and found items. I also love the intuitive process of collage and used this process in many pieces in the past.*

*My current paintings are acrylic, pastel and charcoal on long individual boards, measuring 3 to 6 inches high and 60-70 inches long. They are my interpretation of pictographs, a line of abstract or representative images used by ancient cultures to convey a message or observation. I have completed several of these works before I actually looked at images of old pictographs and some of my figures are scribbles consistent with drawings from other times and places. This connection to the past and nature inspires me.”*