

Germaine Nijdam, Artist And Driftwood Art Pioneer

There have been many who have done and are doing driftwood art, but Curaçao-born Germaine Nijdam was the original pioneer and her work stands out as classic pieces of that art. "Of course," Germaine says, "there is such fun and excitement in beach-combing, never knowing what you'll find, that it's no wonder so many people do it!" But Germaine is a true and serious artist in her own right and that shows in her work with those natural materials cast up on our beaches.

Inspired by her artist grandfather, Germaine started painting at an early age and by the time she returned to the Caribbean and Bonaire after a stint in Portugal she started painting on canvas, then became entranced with driftwood. "I was doing it for myself at first," Germaine explains, "then I was making pieces for friends, and that's how it all began!" Now it's chairs, benches, shelves, lamps, tables as well as her driftwood framed oil and acrylic paintings of the intense dark blue/light blue lines of the Caribbean horizon for which she's



be seen and purchased in Holland (www.marria.nl) and Curaçao.

Her atelier and home in Santa Barbara at Kaya Onix #1 is full of surprises. The high natural stone wall encompasses a fascinating sculpture garden full of indigenous plants and trees. Follow the stone path dotted with dark and light blue marbles that sparkle in the sun to the artist's workshop and see what new whimsies and wonders she's created. Contact the artist at 717-2203 or 786-1714, Email: gnart@bonairenet.com ■

Laura DeSalvo



well known. She also makes signs, wind chimes, even rosaries. Her partner, Inge van der Linden, helps her with the business aspects and beach combing.

Nijdam's work has been in exhibitions in Portugal, Holland, Curaçao, Bonaire and Cuba. Her furniture has been bought by well known designers like Piet Boon and art lovers like Henny Huisman, Gert Berg and Ruud Hendriks. And now her art can

Planta Palu Plant A Tree Planta Palu



Marian Walthie photo

On Sunday, November 21, the Ban Boneiru Bek Foundation, TCB, STINAPA and others put on a wonderful Tree Planting (Palu Planta) Festival at the Washington/Slagbaai National Park despite rainy weather. In the photo Commissioner James Kroon and tree art winner, Gabriel Guarenas, plant one of the trees. ■ G.D.



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