

Germaine Nijdam – the Evolution of an Artist



Germaine



The sign in front of her house

Most people know Germaine Nijdam as one of the first artists* on the island to use driftwood as her medium. Her pieces are whimsical, humorous and deftly done. All her life Germaine has been creating art, as did her late grandfather who still inspires her.

so much art at once,” she says. “It was such an eye opener – seeing the freedom and departure from just brushes.” She returned to Bonaire and threw herself into her new work, and it is amazing. It’s taken a lot of steps for the artist to come to this point to what she calls her “fine art.”

Now she uses tools from the carpenteria and from the kitchen as well. “I’m still using acrylics but I throw in more texture now. I’m painting on wood and on canvas.” She continues, “My main focus as always been Bonaire. The work should remind you of Bonaire – its colors and its heart and soul.” “I feel so free when I’m working,” she admits. “I have no baggage; it works as healing. I don’t focus on the outcome. Something always comes out and I go with the flow!

And it’s my yoga practice that makes it flow.” Her new work has had a warm reception. She received a commission to paint a four-meter high “waterfall” for a three-story building and has sold some of the new pieces.

For a real display of many of her works or to ask her to create something for you, stop by her atelier on Kaya Onix #1. It’s best to call ahead. You’ll see signs directing your there. It’s in a beautiful spot overlooking Bonaire and the sea. Homestyle and MG are also selling her pieces. Her funny signs pop up all over Bonaire and Curacao and in hotels. You can’t miss them. ■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo

Germaines’ website: WWW.gnartbonaire.com
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“Hourglass” (left) and “Waterfall” (right)



But something happened to her recently when she was on vacation in Ashville, North Carolina. “I saw



More than a chair



Wave

*Germaine says it’s Helen Dovale on the island to work with driftwood. (“Elena”) who was the first artist



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