

# Honey Hilliard & H

## Multidisciplinary Artist, Children's Book Illustrator, Author



### A Bit of Honey

Honey Hilliard's artwork takes flight

BY REBECCA PADGETT



Speckled with a warm amber color, Honey Hilliard's eyes match her name. For that matter, so do her hair and her sweet disposition. Hilliard is one of those rare people you feel at peace with instantly — so much so, that my interview with her turns into a three-hour conversation in which I end up driving to her house, touring her studio and meeting her husband and two-year-old daughter.

Our meeting begins at Bella Bella, where a large collection of Hilliard's paintings is currently housed. Directly behind the hostess's stand hangs a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission poster that depicts birds found throughout Florida, drawn with



### THE BUSINESS OF ART

By Jessica Lumpkin and Heather Thomas  
Photography by Kira Derryberry

The starving artist is a cliché that has long terrified parents and loved ones of those trying to make a career off of their artistic talent. Those who chose the career of an artist know the risks and rewards of such a path. It is not only passion and talent that is necessary, but also the ability to ride the unpredictable wave of such a career that helps lead an artist to success. With some good business mindset and marketing savvy, it is possible to take a creative passion and turn it into an income generating business, as local artists Honey Hilliard and Kelly Rysary have done.

#### Honey Hilliard

Honey Hilliard used her art and inventions to enter, activate and accelerate a new level of significance, through business.

Honey, an artist, musician, illustrator, children's book author-illustrator and inventor of AmiScavo accepted the challenge of turning her artistic talent into a business. After 7 years of working for the state of Florida, Honey took one immaculate leap of faith that has since granted her the opportunity to live what she loves. "I was always independent, whether I was supported

or not. Leaving my secure state job [as a wildlife [illustrator] to work for myself was probably questioned, but I don't remember anyone trying to slow me down or stop me. It wouldn't have done any good."

Graduating with an art degree from Florida State University, Honey began working a temporary job that turned into a career service scan position as a bird and wildlife artist and graphic designer to prevent extinction and endangerment of different species. When her daughter, Autumn, was born, Honey leaped into freelancing by launching her own fine art and custom design company, Honey Hilliard, Inc., as a way to give her daughter the time she desired. "If you're considering making a living freelancing, be ready to work harder and longer than you ever have—much longer than 40 hours per week." However, after 14 years in business, Honey found team members, learned to delegate and is now able to help other companies' and individuals' visions come to light through designing their branding tools and websites.

Before marrying her husband, Kenny, who she says does the "techy" side of the business, Honey was a single mother often struggling to pay bills with a freelance career while

#### BUSINESS & CAREER



squeezing in time to make new art and write. Honey self-published the children's book *Looking for Butterflies*, a thoughtful recount of her daughter Autumn and her best friend's adventure. "A lot of people approach me wondering how to publish their own children's book, and when I ask them about it, they say that they haven't started writing it yet. First, my simplest advice is—start the book, surround yourself with people that say 'Yay!' instead of 'Nay!', and finish it!"

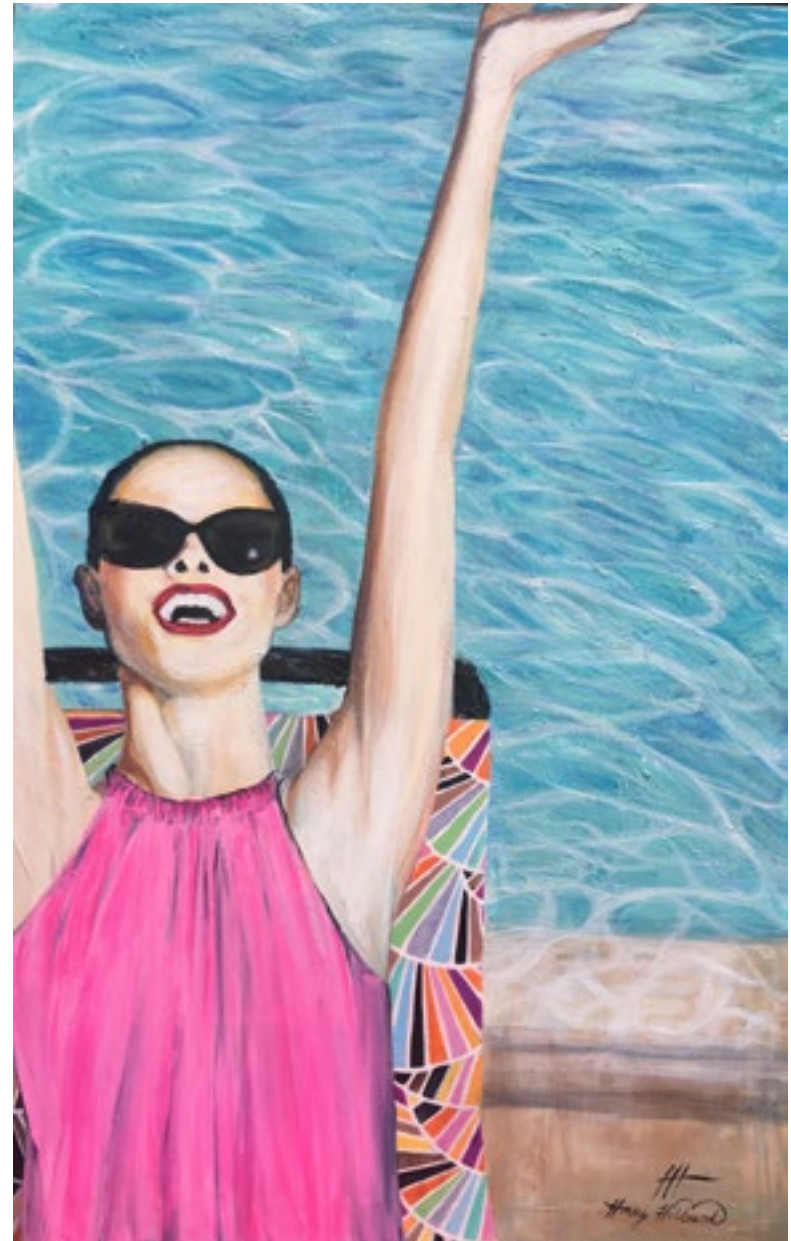


# Series of Iconic Subjects



**Pitcher Plants, Butterflies  
& Marilyn Monroe**  
25X40

**Big Splash**  
25X40







**Frida with Pink Lips& Ribbons**  
12X16

**Calm in the Chaos**  
36X40







**Miss Connie**

Commissioned by subject's daughter in law



**Autumn, 17**

Commissioned by subject's Mother





**Bella**

Commissioned by subject's father

**Mrs. Simpson**

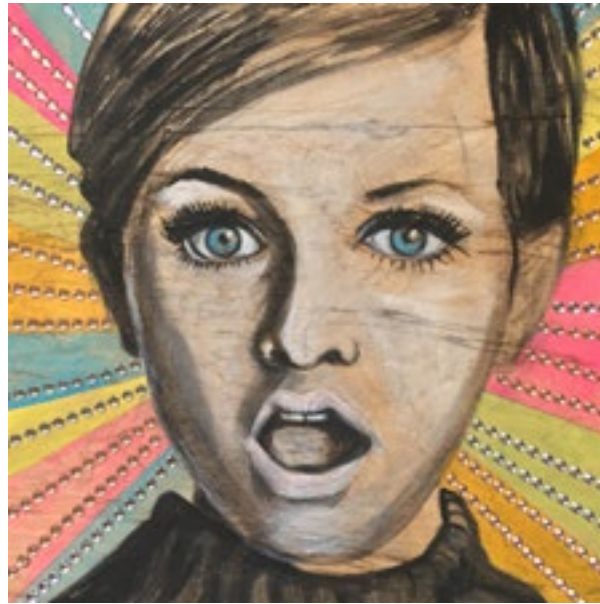
Commissioned by subject's daughter







**Norma Kamali** 12X12



**Twiggy** 12X12



**Frida Phoenix** 12X12



**Brigitte Bardot** 12X12



**Isabella Rossellini** 12X12



**Edie Sedgwick** 12X12

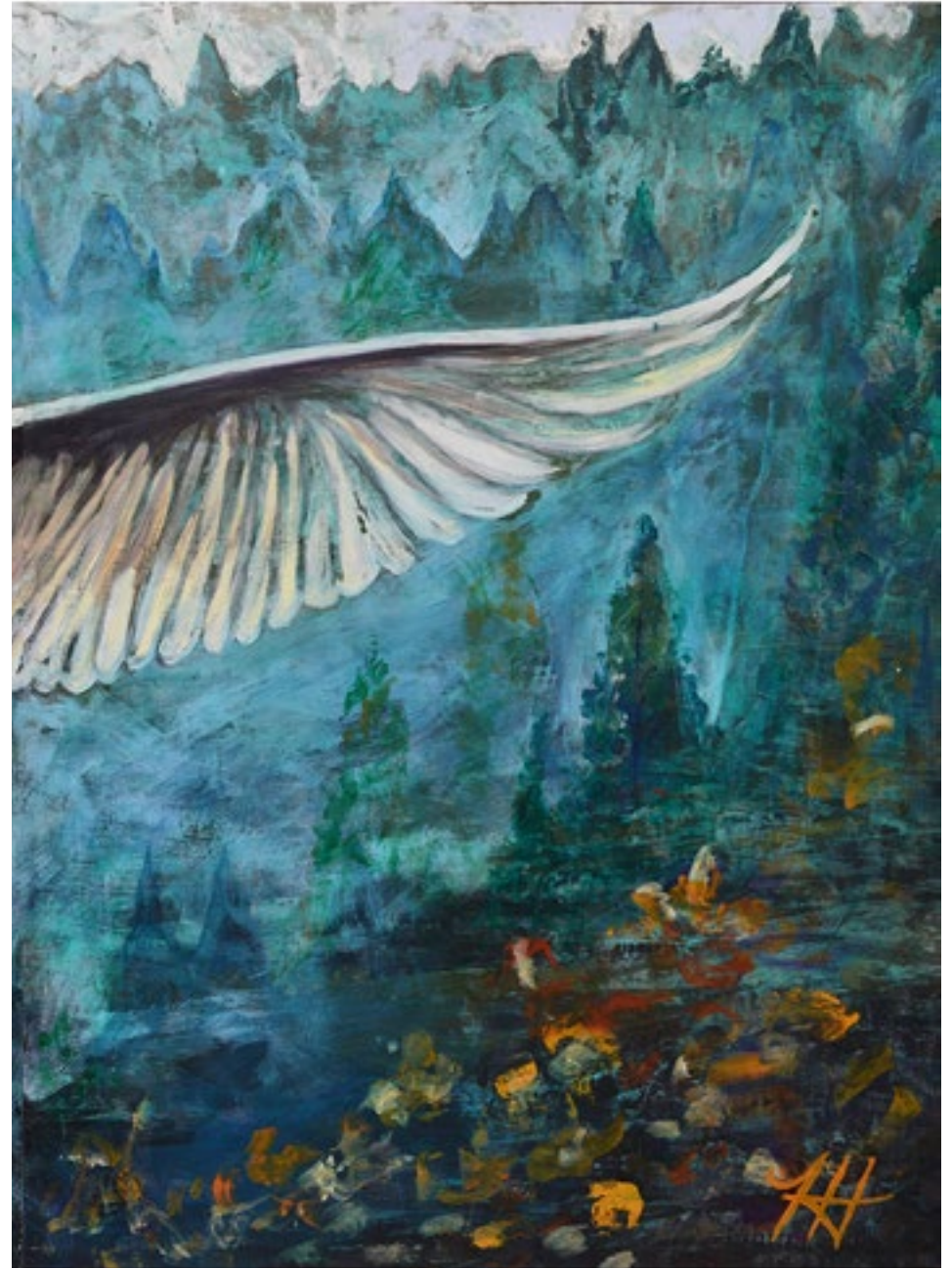


# Free Birds

In flight

Diptych (2 wood canvases)

70X48





**Joy & Triumph** 24X48



**Dancing Cranes** Diptych  
(2 wood canvases) 48X48





**Reclining Bird Goddess**  
22X12



**Cleopatra  
with Little Green  
Bee-eater**  
12X16

**Lady in Red**  
12X16





# Sunrise Tinies 5x5", on wood panels



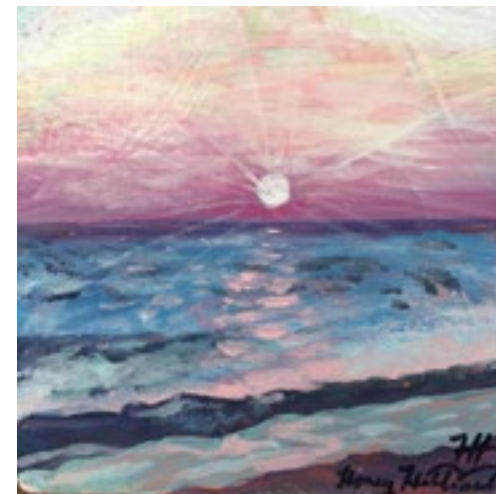
**Sunrise 1**



**Sunrise 2**



**Sunrise 3**



**Sunrise 4**



**Sunrise 5**



**Sunrise 6**



**Sunrise 7**



**Sunrise 8**



# The Bejeweled Forest, an ongoing series, pieces shown below have sold New Creatures May be Commissioned



Elvis



Bejeweled Owl

Black Sheep





**Bejeweled Peacock,**  
**36x48**

**Bejeweled Swans,**  
**38x48**





# The French Collection, from studies in France



**Fete de la Musique** 8X10



**Bike in Wheat Field** 8X10



**Pink Village** 8X10



**Poppy Field** 8X10



**La Bonne Et Toile** 8X10



**Blustery Wheat Field** 8X10





**Juliette**  
8X10



**Sophie**  
8X10



**Street  
Musicians**  
8X10



**Couple in Paris**  
8X10



**Castles  
and Balloons**  
8X10