



**Y**ou may know of Pineapple Grove Arts District as a funky little area of Delray Beach, a couple of blocks off Atlantic Avenue. Pineapple Grove is the home of great restaurants, shops and salons. But have you met the artists? Pineapple Grove embraces all of the arts including the visual art you see by way of the murals and sculptures that dot the area. But you can also find dance, theatre, literary and culinary arts represented here. This series will introduce you to some of the artists that live and work in Pineapple Grove Arts District.

# DANA DONATY

## ART IN THE PUBLIC EYE

In Delray Beach, a town long known for its arts community, there is one woman who stands out from the crowd - Dana Donaty, an artistically tenacious force of nature. After living in London for 12 years, she returned to Delray Beach, the summer home of her childhood, just five years ago and quickly became a star as an in-demand visual artist and celebrated muralist.

Although most of Dana's paintings are enjoyed in private homes, a number of her remarkably crafted murals can be found in public places, two of which are in Pineapple Grove. On Second Avenue she created the award-winning 85-foot long mural entitled 'Observations' on the north wall of The Delray Camera Shop, inspired by the Loxahatchee Nature Preserve and awarded the honor by the City for superior design and community beautification. Dana's other mural, "Theatre of Life", is located on the second story of 189 NE 2nd Avenue and is well worth visiting.

Her latest and most talked about mural graces the wall of Spot Coffee on Atlantic Avenue celebrating the unique community of Delray, stylistically highlighting many of our well-loved cultural landmarks.

Donaty also received the ASID 2010 Industry Partner Award for Excellence 'Best Artistic Project/Public' for her powerful and poignant mural depicting the evolution of fire fighters in the new Boynton Beach Fire Station #5.

Dana's creative concepts and designs have been featured in Delray's Garlic Fest, First Night Poster and the Seagate Hotel's holiday card. She also donates her time and talents to the town by serving effectively as the chairwoman for the Public Advisory Art Board.

She proudly tells me that the Public Art Program recently procured administrative services from the county, a sculpture donation from William Debilzan to be sited at Worthing

Park, a bronze sculpture donation on the grounds of Old School Square, plans for The Florida Association of Public Art Professionals to visit Delray for the 2011 conference and continued work advising the city commission on Public Art policies.

Dana is often asked to define her art style but she prefers to describe her work as storytelling. "Clients describe their vision and it's my job to translate that into art".

Works on canvas, large-scale art on a building or faux finishing, all of Dana's work is site specific. Her faux finishes are just as beautiful as her murals and are often described as art. Traditional decorative finishes, architectural coatings



such as Venetian plaster and newer technologies like iron coatings are all part of her extensive portfolio, which keep the best interior designers vying for her time.

If you know Dana, she is more than capable of meeting the demands of any artistic challenge. Her expert experience and openness as an artist create a strong body of work in high demand. Delray Beach is proud to have her as part of its arts community.

Prior to her appointment to PAAB in 2008, Dana served

on the Pineapple Grove Board and when asked about her hopes for Pineapple Grove she replies, "I want all of Delray to work together to make the successes of Atlantic Avenue flow and merge into Pineapple Grove."

To view Dana's online portfolio, visit [www.danadonaty.com](http://www.danadonaty.com) Follow her on Facebook, 'Dana Donaty'

