

Win This Beautiful A.J. Brown Original and Support MKAF!



This year Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) welcomes to the Festival of the Arts guest artist A.J. Brown, a second generation Florida Highwayman from Fort Pierce, Florida.

The original Highwaymen were 26 self-taught African American painters, who in the 1950s realized that they couldn't sell their work in white-owned galleries, so they took to the road selling their scenes of beaches, sea and wildlife for \$25 from their car trunks on area roadways. Today, many of the remaining Highwaymen are still on the road selling their works, but thankfully the world is more welcoming and their art is highly valued selling for thousands of dollars.

Born in Virginia, raised by a single mother and Seminole Indian grandmother in southern Florida, Brown came from a family of migrant fruit and vegetable pickers from Tallahassee Florida. Life was hard. These nomadic working families lived in camps and traveled from highway to highway. "We had no permanent home. We were Highwaymen in every sense of the word," Brown says.

Brown's unique perspective of life, like many Florida Highwaymen, is clearly illustrated in her work. Images of vividly colored Red Royal Poinciana and Purple Jacaranda trees along the southern bayous of Florida are trademarks.

A.J. Brown has generously donated an original, framed 22" x 26" painting titled, "Tangerine Skies" valued at \$2,275 to support funding and awareness of MKAF's art education outreach program, All Kinds of Art.

Tickets for the Benefit Drawing are \$10 each, three for \$20, ten for \$50 or \$20 for \$100. Tickets may be purchased in person at MKAF offices located at 4323 Commons Drive in Destin (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or by calling (850) 650- 2226. This special benefit drawing will be held at the Raffle Tent on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 3 p.m. You do not need to be present to win.

AJ Brown

Florida Highwaymen

The Highwaymen is a name given to a group of African American painter's living in the Fort Pierce area's painting old Florida's landscapes during the mid-1950' 60's and 70's.





Tropicana and citrus groves throughout south Florida played key roles in the development of the landscapes, our history, cultural and lifestyle of our people over decades.



Highwaymen art is a brand, highly sought after by collectors and currently range into the thousands.

Prices for pieces on display range from small miniatures 350.00 to large sizes in the thousands, prints are also available.

