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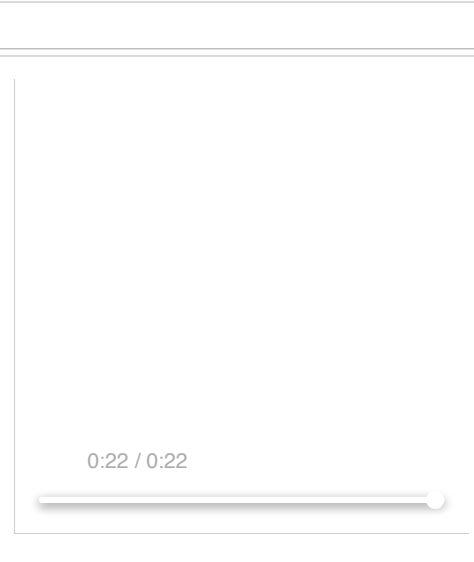
## RAY ROLSTON: Inspired by the beauties of Epirus!

ON MARCH 1, 2019.



One of Florida's top artists is painter Ray Rolston. Ray was born in British Guyana, but emigrated as an adult in New York in 1969. He is a graduate of Queens College and holds Masters in English Literature. Naturalist by his nature and growing up in the tropics with impressive sunsets and endless summer, he began painting from an early age, giving great importance to colors. After twenty years of stay in New York, he moved to Florida Keys and specifically to Key West, the southernmost island of the United States. This islet, closer to Cuba than to Mainland Florida, is known for its free lifestyle, the friendliness of its inhabitants, its beauties and the number of famous people living or living now such as Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Jimmy Buffett, President Truman.

Key West, surrounded by the turquoise waters of Mexico's Bay from the west and the Atlantic Ocean from the east, became his home and was the perfect setting for his creative mind and free-thinking artist. Exotic homes, lush vegetation, and the beautiful semi-tropical environment are their favorite themes. Many tourists visiting the islet (more than four million a year) are impressed by Ray's creations, buying his



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unique works and transferring his art to the entire world, making him perhaps the most popular Florida Keys painter. Ray himself also travels around the world, looking for new experiences and inspired by different cultures.



I met Ray Rolston on one of my trips to Key West and since then I've been friends. He knew a lot about Ancient Greece but wanted to learn about modern Greece and I would say that he was impressed by the beauties of our homeland. But most of all, Ray was excited and inspired by the landscapes of Epirus and mainly of Preveza. He especially liked the colors and created paintings inspired by photographs we sent him. He proudly informs his clients that for some paintings the original idea came from Greece and he thinks that this gives more value to his creations while at the same time he makes known the name of Preveza in the world.

Ray's paintings are in my possession and I'm proud of that. But I'm more proud of honoring my friendship and respecting and inspiring me from where I come from. I will confess to you and something else, this multi-dimensional man, one afternoon at Key West, surprised me by constantly speaking about the life and work of Nobel Prize Enrico Fermi!

We are soon expecting Ray Rolston in our area. We would love to visit not only the coasts like Preveza and Parga, but also our beautiful continental parts such as the only Syrrako and Kalarrytes, the impressive Zagorohoria, Giannina and the lake. I am curious to see how he will portray them in his works. I look forward...

**\* You can see Ray Rolston's works on his website: [www.rayrolston.com](http://www.rayrolston.com) (<https://www.rayrolston.com>)**

**THEODOROS MARKIS**

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