

ALYS BEACH ART & SCULPTURE IN THE OPEN AIR

From its onset, the planning of Alys Beach has included an artistic vision that extends beyond its distinctive architecture and thoughtful landscape. Woven into the fabric of the Alys Beach design is the artwork and sculpture tucked into pocket parks, anchoring natural “rooms,” and heralding common spaces. Art is invited to speak within and into the landscape, and the experience of each piece is enhanced by its surroundings. Art in the community, particularly outdoor sculpture, is part of the foundation in beauty and art upon which the town is built, and part of the overall vision for Alys Beach.

As the town grows, Alys Beach continues to bring art into the landscape, creating a dialogue between each work of art and its surroundings, between the natural world and the manmade. The experience and discovery of art in nature is transformative, inviting engagement and lending an accessibility to the interpretation of, and connection to, each work.

Over the years, the collection has grown to include pieces from local artists, as well as those from around the world, and made of teak, bronze, marble and other mediums. With each work of art added to the collection, the celebration of beauty, of diversity, and of mindfulness of the world around us is continued. To walk through Alys Beach is to visit an oasis of beauty, where art and landscape celebrate the senses, inspire connection and wonder, and enhance well-being.



1. *Untitled (Mosaic murals)* in Butteries East and West
2. *Recline in Blue*
3. *Tänzerin*
4. *Leda*
5. *Untitled (Dragon)*
6. *Untitled (Horses)*
7. *Marbella*
8. *Chauncey*
Chauncey Too
Chauncey Blowin' In The Wind
Carrot
9. *Alberta*
10. *The Mantle II*
11. *The Water Bearer*
(Private Collection)
12. *Concha de Mar*
13. *Untitled (Turtles, Hatchlings)*



THE ART OF ALYS BEACH

Field Guide

“Sculpture is an art of the open air. Daylight, sunlight, is necessary to it. And for me its best setting and complement is nature.”

– Henry Moore

The Alys Foundation

The Alys Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, was established in the early planning stages to provide funding for the sustenance of the long-term community values of Alys Beach. The funds from The Alys Foundation are used to preserve and enhance the Alys Beach quality of life, primarily through art and cultural development. The Foundation is committed to establishing a culture of art at Alys Beach through the continued acquisition of outdoor sculpture and artworks, in addition to producing large-scale signature events throughout the year such as Digital Graffiti, the 30A Wine Festival, and Alys Beach Crafted.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS



1
 Concetta Rothwell Morales
 b. 1960
 Brooklyn, New York
Untitled (Mosaic murals)
 Ceramic tile mosaics
 I. Alys Beach Butteries, at northeast, southeast, northwest, southwest corners of 30A, Alys Beach

Inside each of the Inside each of the Butteries, the iconic Bermudan minaret-shaped structures along Scenic Highway 30A and flanking the eastern and western edges of Alys Beach, are beautiful mosaic murals created by Concetta Rothwell Morales, a talented and well-recognized American mosaic muralist.

The murals are designed to feature the history and heritage of South Walton County. The first buttery features the Native American heritage of the region, the second tells the story of the region's first European explorers, the third tells the story of the timber industry and the cultural and agricultural history of the region following European settlement, and the fourth offers an overview of the twentieth century story.



3
 Christian Peschke
 1946 – 2017
 Germany
Tänzerin
 Bronze, white varnish with ceramic coating
 I. Caliza Courts Park, north of 30A

Tänzerin, or “Dancer,” by German Modernist sculptor Christian Peschke, is a powerful representation of the female form. Though this dancing, joy-filled woman is raised to a sacred status, Peshke’s work emphasizes the figure as a symbol of the force of life within the body. Of *Tänzerin*, Peshke said, “The sculpture is not just a symbol of femininity and equality in our society, but also a symbol

of life and the joy of life... At the sight of the dancer, let us remember the promise to women: to honor their equal rights, to protect them, to love them, to respect them, to raise them on the pedestal which is theirs...” Peshke is considered to be one of the foremost representatives of 20th-century modern art. His work exudes joy and celebrates beauty in perfect partnership with the architectural surroundings of Alys Beach.



2
 Dhruva Mistry
 b. 1957
 Kanjari, India
Recline in Blue
 Laser cut steel with 2-part electrostatic powder coat
 I. 30A, adjacent to Alys Beach Amphitheatre

Recline in Blue is part of Mistry’s *Recline* sculptural series, which graced the cover of Architectural Digest’s *The Art Issue*, India edition. The piece explores planes, materials and scale with laser cut steel assemblage and shapes “recall(ing) a musical sensuality,” says the artist of his work. In a TED Talk on the topic “Learning from Art and Sculpture,” Mistry sites inspiration in “...learning from life...learning from flora and fauna and animals and humans.”

When the great size of Mistry’s sculpture presented a challenge in logistics, Vulcan Industries, an EBSCO Industries, Inc. company, stepped in to fabricate the piece specially for this Alys Foundation procurement. *Recline in Blue*’s large scale and arresting cobalt blue finish are a striking, spirited compliment to the palm-lined stretch of 30A running east-to-west through the center of Alys Beach.



4
 Steve Wagner
 b. 1951
 Blue Mountain Beach, Florida
Leda
 Cast stone
 I. Arboleda Park, north of 30A

Leda, the Mermaid, by local artist and sculptor, Steve Wagner, sits amid the “rolling waves” of yaupon holly in Arboleda Park at Alys Beach. Wagner connects her to Alys Beach by naming her Leda, a contraction of the park name, Arboleda, which means “grove of trees” in Spanish, and with subtle references to the Gulf in the scalloping of her mermaid hair and in the yaupon hedge “waves” from which she emerges. Wagner’s installation creates an environmental experience, using the foliage surrounding the nearly 1,800-pound stone sculpture as an extension of the artwork itself.



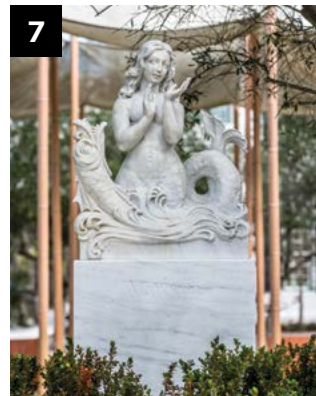
6
 John Aspley
 High Point, North Carolina
Untitled (Horses)
 Teak wood
 I. North of Lake Marilyn, north of 30A

The horses, designed by John Aspley, proprietor of the prominent antiques market, Antiques & Interiors, in High Point, North Carolina, are installed among native Lovegrass and Gulf Coast Lupine along the Nature Trail. Aspley worked closely with a team of skilled craftsmen in Indonesia on the fabrication of the horses. While the teak wood of the sculpture compliments the natural elements of the Gulf Coast’s salty breezes and sunshine, the location of the horses creates a delightful play on the transition from the more urban, organized character of the south side to the looser, more rural character on the north side of the community.



5
 Charles Lawson
 Freeport, Florida
Untitled (Dragon)
 Steel
 I. Nature Trail, north of 30A

This sculpture is the work of Charles Lawson, a local artist and metal fabricator with a studio in Freeport, Florida. Of imposing scale and fabricated of forged steel with repurposed metals, this oxidized dragon emerges from the tall pines and palmettos of the Alys Beach Nature Trail to greet guests with its rusty grin. With a sandy clearing surrounded by an unrefined, informal mix of native flora and fauna as its “room,” the Dragon works with its environment to generate a visceral response from its audience.



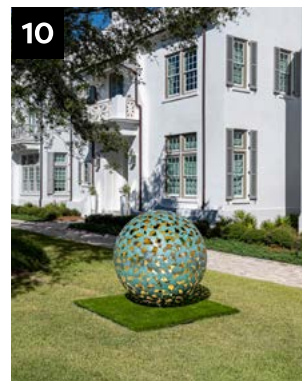
7
 Artist unknown
 Italy
Marbella
 Carrera marble
 I. Papilio Park, north of 30A

Sculpted by an unknown artist of exquisite Carrera Marble, this depiction of a mermaid interacts with the serene environment at Papilio Park. Ornate and Classical in the tradition of Italian Renaissance sculpture, *Marbella* rises from the waves of sea and scales of serpent in a romantic portrayal of mythical beauty.



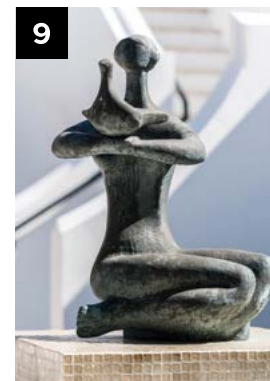
8
 Jim Budish
 b. 1953
 Tuscon, Arizona
Chauncey Carrot
 Bronze
 I. Literary Lair, Turtle Bale Pedestrian Path and Fonville Park, north of 30A

These large-scale bronze sculptures of bunnies and a carrot bring a playful whimsy to the north side of the Turtle Bale Pedestrian Path. Exaggerated both in scale and in proportion, sculptor Jim Budish explores the attitude, emotion and personality behind the “Joie de Vivre” he hopes to draw out of his audience and celebrates the special creatures that inhabit our environment. Moving away from the shoreline and the sea turtles nesting on the beaches, and towards a more organic, thicketed landscape north of 30A, these bunnies represent the progression of the natural ecosystem and its inhabitants.



10
 David Harber
 b. 1957
 London, England
The Mantle II
 Verdigris bronze with gold leaf
 I. North Turtle Bale Springs Pedestrian Path, north of 30A

The works of British sculptor David Harber originate with his sundial fabrication and artistry, and his background in metalworking. Scientific navigation principles and a contemporary, elegant approach to classic, ancient designs are key elements of David Harber’s work, and the work of his studio and workshop in Oxfordshire. *The Mantle II*, commissioned for Alys Beach in 2021, reflects Harber’s appreciation for the relationship between the architectural and the natural landscapes of Alys Beach, while also capturing and sharing his inspiration in the way that the natural sunlight reflects off of the gold, creating an illusion of the globe glowing from the inside.



9
 Sonia Ebling
 1918-2006
 Brazil
Alberta
 Bronze
 I. Alys Beach Sales Center Courtyard, north of 30A

Brazilian sculptor Sonia Ebling spent more than six decades exploring human and animal forms, the shapes and patterns of nature, and the iconic moments when mankind and nature interact. Ebling’s works are powerful yet restrained, quiescent yet utterly vibrant. “All works of art are born and destined for somebody,” Ebling wrote. “There must be a union. Much like a marriage. All is well if the acquired work of art is loved...”

The bronze figure *Alberta* indeed seems destined to be part of Alys Beach. The connection between the human figure and the bird is intimate, essential, and innocent, reflecting the relationship that can exist between people and nature at Alys Beach – that can exist, in fact, wherever the works of man are conceived with nature in mind.



11
 Brad Morton
 b. 1951
 Birmingham, Alabama
The Water Bearer (private collection)
 Bronze
 I. South Sea Garden Pedestrian Path, south of 30A

The Water Bearer, by Birmingham artist Brad Morton, is part of the private collection of Alys Beach homeowners Jim and Tara Bryant, who installed the bronze abstract figural sculpture alongside a pedestrian path where passersby can experience and enjoy it. The figure can be seen as a symbol of the gifting of water, a beautiful complement to the relationship of the Gulf waters to the Alys Beach location.



12
 Ricardo Pascale
 b. 1942
 Montevideo, Uruguay
Concha de Mar
 Wood
 I. (temporary) ZUMA Wellness Center Entry Courtyard, north of 30A

Sculpted by Uruguay’s Ricardo Pascale in 2005, *Concha de Mar* is comprised of a collage of hard woods, creating a radial effect. The prominent post-war, contemporary artist continues to be recognized worldwide through exhibition and awarded distinctions. As President of the Central Bank of Uruguay, Pascale created the Figari Award, the highest distinction for visual arts in the country. Currently shown in the ZUMA entry courtyard, *Concha de Mar* will ultimately move to a covered location where it can be appreciated as intended, in-the-round.



13
 Dan Dutton, Rivera-Dutton Sculpture Studio
 b. 1959
 Somerset, Kentucky
Untitled (Turtles, Hatchlings)
 Bronze with verdigris patina
 I. The Spring, Egg Plaza, Turtle Bale Pedestrian Path, south of 30A

Created by Kentucky-based sculptor and self-proclaimed “King of Whimsy,” Dan Dutton, The Spring and Egg Plaza’s bronze turtles and hatchling sculptures are designed to honor the beach’s role in the sea turtle lifecycle in an engaging and joyful way. The sculptures are installed on Turtle Bale Pedestrian Path, which follows the storyline of the surrounding ecological area as it relates to the sea turtles that return year-after-year to nest along the Gulf Coast beaches. Along the pedestrian path, a mound of turfgrass is designed to resemble a turtle’s shell, and the fountain and watercourse of The Spring compliment the theme with a mix of formal, elegant design and lighthearted whimsy.