

Cayman Watercolours Charitable Trust

Olena Bolgova - Cayman Turtle

Born in Ukraine, I now call Grand Cayman home. Camera always in hand, I roam in search of scenes and moments that might one day inspire a painting — because for me, art is about finding and capturing what is fresh and compelling in the world around me.

Painting has been part of my life for as long as I can remember, but over the past twelve years it has grown from a quiet hobby into a true passion and purpose. The brilliant blues and greens of the Caribbean Sea and the lush tropical landscapes surrounding me speak directly to my creative spirit, urging my brush to move. Grand Cayman itself is an endless source of wonder — from the dazzling light that plays across the water at different hours of the day, to the quiet charm of its shorelines, its people, and the rich layers of life both above and beneath the surface.

My inspiration, however, reaches beyond the landscape. I am equally drawn to abstraction and the bold visual language of Aboriginal art. Together, these influences shape work that is deeply rooted in Caribbean culture — its color, its energy, and its stories — while remaining open to the wider world of artistic expression.

One subject that holds a special place in my heart is the sea turtle — a creature both ancient and graceful, perfectly at home in these Cayman waters. To me, the turtle embodies the quiet strength and unhurried beauty of island life. Painting it felt like paying tribute to one of nature's most serene wanderers, a symbol of the deep connection between this land, its sea, and all who are fortunate enough to call it home.

