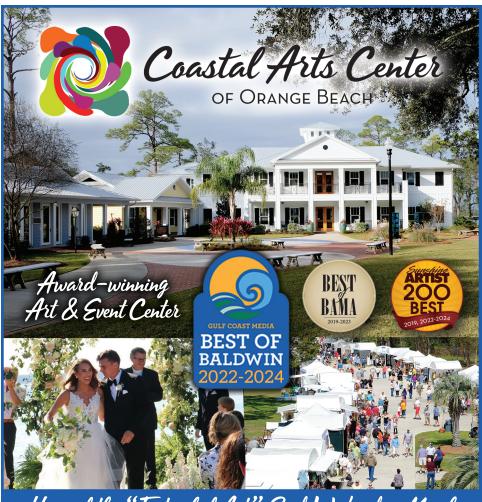


# Art & Antiques

**Baldwin County Trail** 



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Mon-Fri 9-4



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Gulf Coast Arts Alliance

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Art Market Gulf Shore Pres. Church Nov. 2, 2024

Christmas open house at the gallery Nov. 23, 2024

**Classes Available by Appointment** 





GCAA-AL.org 225 East 24<sup>th</sup> Ave

225 East 24<sup>th</sup> Ave Waterway Village, Gulf Shores

Monday-Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm





#### ABOUT THE COVER

## Wismar Tewelry

#### HANDMADE WITH HEART, CRAFTED FOR LIFE

Nestled in the artistic haven of Fairhope, award-winning jeweler Bill Wismar has spent decades refining the craft of creating bespoke, handcrafted jewelry that blurs the line between art and adornment.

Known for his intricate designs and commitment to producing unique pieces, Bill's work has become a testament to the power of creativity in an industry often dominated by mass production. Bill has established a distinct niche in fine jewelry by crafting custom, one-of-a-kind items that embody his craftsmanship and inspiration from nature and the timeless work of past jewelry masters.

For over four decades, Bill has honed his skills, transforming silver, gold, platinum and vibrant gemstones into wearable art that captivates collectors and casual shoppers alike. As any true artist will tell you, the materials they work with are half the fun, guiding the creative process and adding their own unique touch to each piece.

"I really love working with gold and platinum," Bill said.

"Because of the intrinsic value, of course, but it's so easy to work with. And it's just fun to work with."



Each piece he creates begins not as a template but as an organic evolution of materials, guided by the inherent qualities of the raw gems and metals.

"I create more rings, but I enjoy making bracelets, pendants and necklaces," Bill said. "It really depends on what the stone draws me to make, whether it should be a pendant, ring or bracelet."

It's this philosophy that defines his work. No two pieces are the same, and his clients know that when they commission a piece, they are not just buying jewelry, but wearable art. From intricately detailed necklaces to elegant rings that showcase the natural beauty of gemstones, Bill's creations stand apart.

"Rarely does the finished piece look like the drawing. There's always a change," Bill said. "The original concept is just a starting point, and then it evolves from there."

Bill's creative process is ever evolving, much like the jewelry itself. Rarely does a finished piece match the initial sketch, and the journey from concept to completion is not a straight shot. As any artist knows, the art decides when it is ready, and Wismar said some ornate pieces can take up to six months to complete as he perfects the details.

"There's always twists and turns," he explained. "I'm always adding, changing or removing something until it feels right."

His dedication to the craft is palpable, with each step of the process undertaken with an artist's eye for detail and a jeweler's precision.

"My customers love that my jewelry is handmade. The quality of the stones, the craftsmanship — it's all well put together. My pieces are heavy, well-made and unique, which is something you don't get from mass-produced jewelry."

This organic approach, combined with Bill's mastery of traditional techniques, sets his work apart. His clients often bring him heirloom pieces — family jewelry with sentimental value but no longer practical — and he transforms them into something new. Whether reimagining an old brooch into a modern pendant or crafting a completely custom ring, Bill's ability to merge past and present makes his jewelry truly one-of-a-kind.

"There are always things that are 'trendy', you know," Bill said.
"But if it's 'trendy', I don't sell it. And I don't copy it, so you're not going to see that in my store. Everything is unique."

Bill's passion for jewelry began early in life. Raised on the Texas Gulf Coast, he was the son of a goldsmith, and by the age of 14, he was already learning the trade through an apprenticeship with his father. By 17, he had developed his own designs, though at the time, he didn't realize it would become his lifelong career.



Sterling silver cuff with patina finish, citrine, diamonds, and 22k yellow gold accents — one of a kind.

"I grew up on the Gulf Coast in Texas, so it started out with nature and trees, casting twigs," Bill explained. "But over time, I moved into a more modern contemporary look, drawing inspiration from the classical masters of the 1920s and 1930s."

Despite his growing love for the craft, Bill's avant-garde designs weren't immediately embraced by the conservative tastes of his small Texas hometown. His unique, contemporary jewelry often sat on display for years before finding a buyer. This artistic disconnect led Wismar to embark on a new chapter. He left Texas, briefly swapping his jeweler's bench for the deck of a yacht, as he pursued another passion: sailing. But even as he sold boats on the Gulf Coast of Florida, jewelry remained his true calling.

A serendipitous trip to the Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival in 1999 changed everything. The vibrant, artsy atmosphere struck a chord with Bill and his wife, Susan, and five years later, he opened his own jewelry store in Fairhope, fully embracing the town's artistic energy. By 2004, he was crafting jewelry full-time in his new adopted hometown.

"We found Fairhope, and it's just been great," Bill said. "It's such an artistic town. People really love art here."

Bill's studio reflects his connection to the creative community. He is a regular presence at local art festivals and cultural events, earning a reputation for his skill and understanding of jewelry as an art form. But besides creating his wearable artwork, he finds something else a little more rewarding.

"Every time I sell a piece and someone loves it, it's rewarding," he said. He also noted that having his artistry recognized on a national level is a significant personal achievement. "Winning a national award a few years ago was really special — I've won state and local contests before, but a national award was something else."

Like many small business owners, Bill and Susan faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a temporary closure of their store. However, the forced downtime

became an unexpected blessing. He spent the time in his home studio, rediscovering his passion for design and giving life to gemstones he had stored away for years.

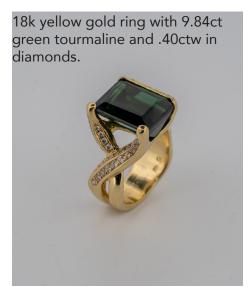
Though his jewelry is handcrafted with premium materials, Bill is quick to dispel the misconception that his pieces are unaffordable. By cutting out middlemen, his custom creations are frequently more budget-friendly than mass-produced alternatives found in larger stores, though they do take time.

"You're always competing against the 'big guys' with their huge advertising budgets," Bill said. "They don't really make things anymore — they just draw it, and someone else overseas makes it. My pieces take time, and sometimes people don't want to wait."

In addition to Bill's colorful and fluid creations, he represents other artists, all of whom create handmade pieces. Some of these artists are award-winning designers, bringing a diverse range of talent to the store. The number of represented artists typically ranges from seven to ten at any given time, with each artist being carefully handpicked to ensure a high standard of quality and craftsmanship. The current artists can be found on the website.

Looking forward to several more years of creating and crafting jewelry. Bill stated, "My goal is to keep creating more of my own pieces. I want to experiment more with new techniques and push the boundaries of what I've done in the past."

Wismar Jewelry, situated in downtown Fairhope, welcomes visitors Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Saturdays during the holiday season. To stay updated on Wismar's latest creations, check out their website and follow their Facebook page. For those in search of jewelry that transcends mere adornment, Bill's pieces present a unique opportunity to acquire a one-of-a-kind heirloom, crafted with the passion of an artist and the precision of a jeweler. Next time you are in Fairhope, don't forget to stop by and meet Bill and Susan.



# **ANTIQUES**



#### Betty G. Haynie Antiques www.BettyGHaynieAntiques.com 15 N. Section St. Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 928-1045 Hours: Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Each item in this quiet and quaint shop is hand selected. Here you will find a wide selection of 18th and 19th century American, English and French furniture, paintings and silver. There is also an impressive offering of ceramics, to include Imari, Chinese Export, Majolica and English ironstone. Shop in store or online.



#### Daphne Antique Galleria www.DaphneAntiqueGalleria. com 1699 U.S. Highway 98

Daphne, AL 36526 (251) 625-2200

**Hours:** Open seven days a week, Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Sunday from 1 – 5:30 p.m.

Measuring 29,000 square feet, this is the largest antique mall on the Eastern Shore with over 140 dealers who have lovingly crafted their booths to transport visitors to another time. The booths here are not simply antiques. They are a trip through time. You will find intriguing items from every era: Victorian, primitive, Oriental, early American, French, African and Europe. Take a fun walk through time and find your favorite style.



### **Dragonfly Emporium LLC** www.TheDragonflyEmporium.com

16821 State Highway 181 Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 591-7340

**Hours:** Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday

Our dealers have a large selection of antique and vintage

items, local handcrafted gifts and one-of-a-kind art. The vibrant green and purple Dragonfly Emporium is funky on the inside and out. Distressed and antique furniture, piles of Pyrex and walls of vintage cast iron. Workshops and art classes held weekly.



#### **Simply Shelly**

www.simplyshellyllc.com 177 Baldwin Square Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 278-5889 Monday-Saturday, 10a.m.-5p.m.

Tucked in the corner of the Baldwin Square Shopping Center, Simply Shelly is Fairhope's Hidden Gem for furniture & antiques. Featuring 12,000 sq/ft of fine furniture, art, antiques, silver, china, handmade gifts, and more-Simply Shelly is a must-see for art and antique lovers in the area. Simply Shelly is also a team of talented designers, organizers, movers, and estate sale professionals. Visit our website to learn more about our unique professional services and browse our growing collection!

We are here to simplify, organize, and design your life!

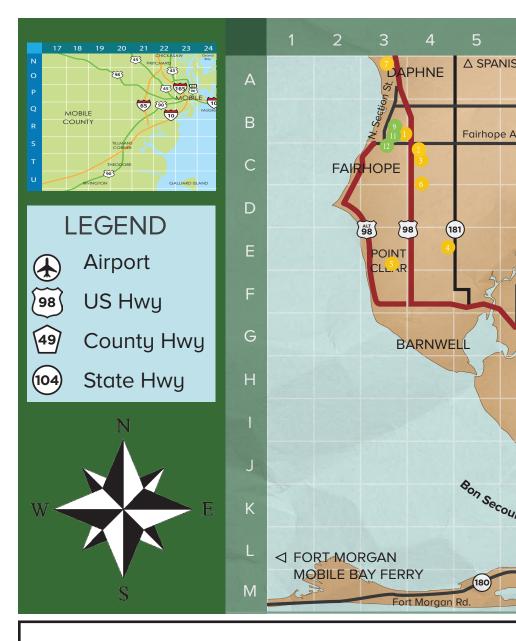


#### Southern Antiques and Accents

www.SAAFairhope.com 251 Greeno Road S. Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 517-7047

**Hours:** Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.

Southern Antiques & Accents and Southern Furniture is now over 26,000 sq ft of a well curated blend of different styles, both Old & New. You'll find collectibles. home decor, jewelry, handmade pottery, primitive, repurposed, vintage furniture and architectural pieces. Antiques, lighting, silver, and so much more. We also are the new home to many of your favorites like La-La Land, Fairhope Flowers, Dixie Bell Paint, Farmhouse Paint, The Trading Post and a few local artists. Don't miss our Super Second Saturday events with live music and spirits. Follow us on social media for all the latest.





#### Daphne Antique Galleria

Over 140 Dealers with 29,000 Square Feet of Furniture, Accessories & Collectibles.



1699 HWY 98 Daphne (across from Target) 251-625-2200







#### **ANTIQUES**



#### To Arms Antiques

www.ToArmsAntiques.com 15296 D County Road 3 Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 422-9474

**Hours:** Monday – Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to noon, 1 – 4 p.m.

We are a dealer in military antiques, collectible items and historical documents from the Revolutionary War to World War II. We sell, buy, trade and are a certified appraiser. Off the beaten path and around a winding road is where you will find this military antiques store gem. Owner Henry Skinner is a living historian and re-enactor who specializes in artifacts dating from 1800-1865. The store buys and sells military antiques and collectable items from the Civil War, World War I and World War II. If you're ready to join the cause, you can purchase reenactment and reproduction military items and supplies as well and join the ranks.





#### Tuveson's Architectural Consignment

8081 Twin Beech Road Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 928-7338

**Hours:** Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

We carry architectural items, antiques, mid-century, modern, art

#### **ANTIQUES**

deco, statuary, planters, garden art, new and salvaged items, furniture and collectibles. Need to change your décor or even recast an entire room? Tuveson's has you covered. Peruse the salvaged antiques and architectural elements, such as wrought iron gates, vintage hardware, doors and windows and shop for furniture and handmade decorative items all at once. If your garden is your preferred room, you will find statuary, lighting, wind chimes and other fun additions to make your outdoor space feel like home.





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#### Beach Girl at Home

https://beachgirlathome.com 3947 State Highway 59, Suites 220 and 240, Gulf Shores, Alabama (251) 223-4914

Hours: Open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Beach Girl At Home's Sago Art Gallery showcases vibrant, eclectic artwork from top local and regional artists. Named for the brand's signature logo Sago palm tree, this exciting new gallery features diverse pieces, including paintings, watercolors, sculpture, and pottery. from more than 50-plus of the best artists around!

Visit our whimsical, fantastical gallery today in GULF SHORES, and stop by our fabulous main showroom, Beach Girl At Home, for colorful coastal collections for the Home, Beach, Boat, Style, Local Art, & Holiday — just one door down from our Sago Art Gallery! Follow us on Facebook Sago Art Gallery at Beach Girl At Home

Or, at Beach Girl At Home (FB) Or, on Instagram at @beachgirl\_ home

#### wismar jewelry

Fine Jewelry & Design



Wednesday-Friday 10am - 5pm

Saturdays in December 10am - 3pm

2 South Church Street **Downtown Fairhope Alabama** 251-928-5858

> www.WismarJewelrv.com Owismar jewelry co. inc.



#### Eastern Shore Art Center

https://esartcenter.org

401 Oak St.

Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 928-2228

Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday.

Free admission! Six galleries with exhibits changing monthly.

First Friday Art Walk and a gift shop with art and accessories. Outdoor wood-fire kiln, classes and workshops for adults and children. Open studios. Annual outdoor art show third weekend in March, community outreach programming and facility rentals. Browse, shop, learn! If you love art, you will love the Eastern Shore Art Center. The nonprofit opened in 1954 as a one-room gallery and since then has flourished into a cornerstone of the Eastern Shore community. breathing art and life into all corners of society. The sprawling complex now houses five exhibit galleries and four teaching studios. New exhibits appear monthly. There are classes for children and adults of all ages and abilities, and the staff brings those programs out into the community to those who are unable to make the trip.



#### **Gulf Coast Arts Alliance**

www. Gulf Coast Arts Alliance. com

225 E. 24th Ave.

Gulf Shores, AL 36542

(251) 948-2627

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10

a.m. to 5 p.m.

More than 50 local and regional artists have their work displayed here, which means you are going to have a tough time picking out just one to bring home! Every inch of wall space is graced with some of the finest artwork the Alabama Gulf Coast has to offer. Visit the website often. Many of your favorite artists offer classes throughout the year here. The GCAA Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For extra fun and even more artwork to choose from, visit the Christmas Open House Trail here on Nov. 7, the Ballyhoo Festival in March and the Zydeco and Crawfish Festival in April.

#### The Kiln Studio and Gallery

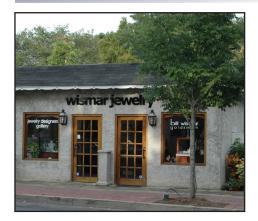
www.thekilnstudio.com 251-517-5460 265 Young Street Fairhope, AL 36532

The Kiln offers ceramic classes in both wheel throwing and hand building. Never worked in clay before?

No problem. We have classes for all levels. Private lessons and parties are also available. Enjoy our gallery which features work by local ceramic

artists. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with our events.





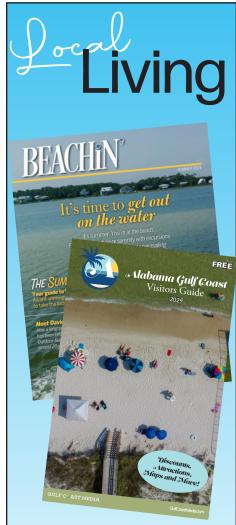
#### Wismar Jewelry

days.

www.WismarJewelry.com
2 S. Church St.
Fairhope, AL 36532
251-928-5858
VISA/MC accepted
Hours: Wednesday – Friday 10
a.m. – 5 p.m.
Open Saturdays in December 10
am. -3 p.m.
Appointment only for other

National award-winning jewelry designer Bill Wismar brings to Fairhope a unique art gallery. Our pieces of jewelry are made one at a time, by hand, using diamonds and fine gemstones, gold, platinum and silver. We also display the jewelry of other studio jewelers.





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#### Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-4pm / Sat 10am-6pm

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https://esartcenter.org



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