



Mission Beach artist Jenn Payne was also one of North Queensland's first female sea captains.

SKIPPER'S BRUSH WITH FAME IS A SHORE THING

JACK LAWRIE

FAR North Queensland's first female sea captain is showing off the best of the region's tropical waterways in a new art exhibition.

Titled *Coconut Shores*, the exhibition by Mission Beach artist

Jenn Payne will feature a collection of beaches, flora, fauna and people in vibrant, confident strokes.

Ms Payne was born in Melbourne but fell in love with tropical Queensland many years ago.

Her love for painting and weaving began in 1982 after she met two major

Australian artisans, Noel Wood and Bruce Arthur, on Bedarra Island.

Settling on the Mission Beach mainland in 1985, Ms Payne worked on a local tourist boat before earning a skipper's ticket, which deepened her respect for the ocean.

She was one of the first female

captains in the north with a ship's master of 24m. "I present unique aspects in artwork, which is a combination of both underwater scenes and land form," she said.

The exhibition will be at Mission Beach Community Arts Centre from October 2 to 13.