

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

Meet Amanda Michele Bryant

Amanda Bryant was born on the Pawnee Indian Reservation in Oklahoma in 1980, yet she is descended from Irish, not Indian, ancestors. Her parents went to the hospital that was closest to their home on the land where Amanda's father was born and raised, land that his family got in one of the Oklahoma Land Runs in the late 1800s.

Amanda's parents divorced when she was 8, and Amanda moved with her mother and siblings to California. Amanda attended Linden Wood University in St. Charles Missouri, graduating in 2000 with a BA in Art History.

Looking for a way to pair her love of art history with a profession that would support her, Amanda became an antiques appraiser. She worked for many years on a traveling panel of appraisers, a precursor to "Antiques Roadshow," has been appointed by Courts to value estate assets, and now has a private consulting business as an antiques appraiser.

Bodega Bay was the go to place for Amanda's grandparents when her mother was growing up, and Amanda and her mother and family often spent the month of October in Dillon Beach. So in 2009, when Amanda was looking for a place to call home and raise her daughter, Elsie (born in 2004), Bodega Bay called out to her as the place to be.



When Amanda was young and growing up in Oklahoma, she used to say that she was going to live by the ocean and have a store. Notwithstanding the eye rolling that followed her pronouncements, Amanda proved herself true. In 2013, Amanda opened her shop "Eclectic Amanda" (eclecticamanda@yahoo.com) in the Blue Whale Building, 1580 Eastshore Road, Bodega Bay (707-812-9710). A steady stream of customers enjoy poking through the antique treasures and cute beachy art objects that are charmingly displayed in the small but cozy shop.

Bodega Bay makes Amanda happy. A secret mermaid at heart, Amanda loves living by the ocean and is inspired by its moodiness. - by Robin Rudderow ■