

Faces of Hawaii

Vol. 1 CURATED BY DARRELL ORWIG



In 2008, HI Art Magazine invited the residents of Hawaii to create a portrait of the time, place and community in which we live, through the faces of its inhabitants. The end result is this book, curated by Darrell Orwig, artist and Director of the Schaefer International Gallery at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center.

Through our gallery, idspace and our online publication, HiArt Magazine, we strive to provide an alternative voice for the arts in Hawaii.

Patti Millington

Introduction

Once, art was an integral part of everyday life for people. The ways we saw our world and each other has been a subject of interpretation by art makers for as long as modern humans have walked the earth. Today, in many of our communities, the connection between art and daily life has dissolved. Art has become the hood ornament on a Cadillac of culture, careening through our communities – a symbol for the good taste of an elite – mimicking originality, and marketing familiar, overworked clichés as commodities. Galleries and critics are the big game hunters who have driven the real human connection which once tempered art, into obscurity. Art of people, by people, for people teeters on the brink of extinction.

In the center of the immense Pacific, stand these Hawaiian Islands, a model for a world grown smaller. Our endemic culture offers interpretation of existence on this volcanic outpost, in story, song, dance and utilitarian object. Adventurers, explorers, colonizers, and proselytizers, from cultures around the world have overlaid that interpretation with their imprint. While art remains prolific in our island community, its nature is fractured. There is little consensus and only marginal involvement of the arts in the tasks of daily life, offering visions of the world we see, and bridges to new worlds that might be.

The camera is an eye, recording momentary consciousness in eye-blink images. There is little guile, cunning or seduction behind which the photographer might hide. The first image we are born to identify is the face. As an icon, we come to know its expression more than any other image in our world. The faces of our community surround us, narrating intention, experience and emotion. In *Faces of Hawaii*, we have invited the inhabitants of these islands to create a portrait of themselves through the lens of a camera. We hope the totality is a moving picture of the many faces which comprise the single face of our small world, Hawaii.

Stephen Freedman

IT'S A SNAP

Portraiture is a daunting task no matter which tool you choose. One of the most misunderstood of these tools is photography. It is generally dismissed as a serious art form because of its pervasiveness in our culture; accessible to anyone with the ability to trip a shutter button.

Photographic images dominate our waking hours so much so that we simply take them for granted. There is no glamour or mystery in them as we find in a painting or drawing. No awe inspiring outcome elicits the classic response from the viewer, the "wow" factor. "I could never learn to do something like that!" "Anybody can take a photograph." The list of clichéd quotes is endless.

It is my firm belief that the opposite is true. Photography is the most difficult of all mediums to master. In the days before digital imaging the photographer/artist, whether serious or recreational, processed with light, paper and chemistry the same pictures their counterparts made in paint. Even getting film processed at the drug store or instant results of Polaroid pictures to document family history - whatever the purpose of the photograph, nothing excuses a bad idea, poor composition or design in any of the picture making processes.

With these thoughts in mind, I want to emphasize that in selecting the images for this book, I applied the same judgments and principles as any other art form or medium. Beyond the technical aspects of digital and film based photography, I look for some quality of the portrait which most successfully responds to the concept of the project, Faces Of Hawaii. Whether the photographer is an accomplished "professional" or a recreational "amateur", the results must reveal an insight into the nature and character of the subject. There must be a personal engagement between the two. These are some of the qualities I think make a good portrait. It's not that easy, it's not a snap.

Darrell Orwig













Mark Steven Garon

Mark Tiro Yamanaka is a talented and passionate Hawaiian musician. He sang throughout our portrait session and played his ukulele with casual intensity.



“Gotcha” Neil Tepper

I’ve known Melissa all her life. She’s the youngest daughter of two of my dearest and oldest friends. “Gotcha”, I said, as I pressed the shutter.



Floating Bliss... Gail L. Pyburn

Haley was playing, laughing, completely thrilled to be in the water. We didn’t plan on swimming that day, she just jumped in with her clothes on.



Nevaeh Makana Aloha O’Kalani Arruda-Kapu Charles Davis

I love to show the fullness of their expression...



Shizuno Nasu James M. Rhodes

I am still mesmerized by her grace and her ability to meld New York, Tokyo and Hawaii into dance.



Mahto Neil Tepper

I was house sitting for a friend on Maui. Before she left, she said her dog, Mahto, might not live to see her return. Mahto, a Husky/Red Chow Chow mix, was 14 years old and in failing health. He was also mostly blind. Mahto is Native American for ‘bear’. Actually, he looked more like a wolf and had a fierce look of both animals. I shot this photo on a hot August day of 2007. Two months later, Mahto died.



A Midwife in Our Community: Clare Loprinzi Dominique Jacot

Mamma (midwife in Sicilian dialect) and Haumea the great goddess of childbirth and creation are the mentors of Clare Loprinzi who resides in Hawai’i. She helps babies to be born peacefully at home and helps the children at Ehunuikaimalino, the Hawaiian Language Immersion School work in the garden. She believes that peaceful births, and a garden for a classroom bring peaceful warriors to today’s world.



“Watch With Your Eyes” Wanda Russell

A young dreamer to become a professional baseball player.
Work with your hands. Lend a hand. Stop to listen. Watch with your eyes.
Build a house. Build a church. Stay with your community.
Be a gentle husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather. Just call me Larry.



Dr. Djon Indra Lim James M. Rhodes

Dr. Lim is my heart specialist. He touched my chest and told me he knew exactly what happened to my heart.
I have this good man to thank for quieting my heart. He is also an accomplished photographer and a hot competitor on the other side of a badminton net.