

WAG Windward Artists Guild

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Letter From the President: Kung Hee Fat Choy and Happy New Year

The year end and New Year holidays are mostly over and I hope that you all had a very happy and healthy time. So sorry I missed the Holiday party, as it is always such a fun event. Instead, I was in chilly London for a big family holiday. The first time in over twenty years I was not in the Hawaii sunshine.

Much has been happening in the past few months. The most important (and tricky) development is that we have lost our gallery space for the spring show at 1132 Bishop. There has been a change of management at the building and as a result there will only be three shows there this year, and we lost our space. This is not a new situation for artists. Gallery spaces that are suitable for not-for-profit organizations to show member work in Honolulu have been disappearing for years. It is part of the on-going challenge for artists—where does one show their work, whether it be in downtown Honolulu or here on the Windward side.

The board is exploring a variety of options with a view to finding a suitable location **for a summer show**. This could be a blessing in disguise. As many of you are aware, the spring and fall are very busy times for artists. All the organizations have shows. Add to that Punahou Carnival and Artists of Hawaii at The Honolulu

Academy of Arts and there is a lot to do. It can feel like overload as deadlines approach all at once. By having a summer show, WAG would have that time to itself and give our members more time to prepare. Now we just have to find a location!

The following locations are on our list: The Arts at Marks, Pauahi Tower, Aloha Tower, Honolulu Hale, The Art Board, Peggy Hopper Gallery, Gallery on the Pali (too small), Koolau Golf Course community room.

AHA kindly offered to work with us to see if we could use the Honolulu Country Club gallery, but the WAG board decided not to pursue this option at the moment for a number of reasons. But the long and the short of it is that at this short notice it is going to be very difficult. The Board is working very hard on this challenge, so watch this space, and if you have any ideas please e-mail me at frances-hersh@hawaii.rr.com.

In the meantime – please don't let this hiccup affect your commitment to producing beautiful art. Look for inspiration, make time to create, enjoy the process and think of the positive - you have more time before the show to prepare an entry. I look forward to 2007 as we take this change in our stride and turn a problem into an opportunity. frances

TAKE A LOOK:

(Our members in the news. Let us know what you're doing. We'll be glad to share the news. Call Ruth at 235-5545 or e-mail at dkrajkahiko@hawaii.rr.com. Thanks to everyone who takes the time to let us know about your activities.)

PRESERVATION A visual discourse on the topic of conservation, restoration, and fragility. The exhibition draws upon the diversity of the natural world and the complex relational systems that govern its evolution as a primary source of inspiration. By **Lori Uyehara**, Hawaii Pacific University Gallery in Kaneohe, Mon.-Sat. 8-5, through March 9, 687-7017.

ORIGINS Works by **Gina Kerr**, **Marcia Morse**, and others, The Balcony Gallery, Kailua, Tues.-Sat, 10-5, through March 7, 263-4434.

PRECIOUS RESOURCES: THE LAND AND THE SEA The exhibition at the Hawaii State Art Museum with works by Hawaii artists that explore the impact of our natural surroundings on our lives. Take enough time to relax and view the 56 minute video. You'll be intrigued. **Shirley Hasenyager** and **Meg Stone** have work in the exhibit, 586-0900.

UNCOMMON PERSPECTIVES X 3 A combination show by the pig, the bunny, and the dragon. Works by **Debbie Pacheco**, **Arlene Woo**, and **Frances Hill**, Pauahi Tower, February 19-March 16. Reception: February 22, 4:30-6:30.

SECOND ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT: CELEBRATING NATURE THROUGH ART Mixed media works by three Kaneohe artists **Rowena Liu**, **Jeanne Snell**, and **Muk Lan Rice**. Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens Gallery, Kaneohe, March 1-30, 9-4 daily. Reception: March 3, 3:30-6:00.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ART 2006 STATEWIDE STUDENT ART EXHIBITION Gallery 'Iolani at Windward Community College, March 2-23, Tues-Fri and Sun, 1-5, Reception: March 2, 4-7, 236-9150.

Windward Artists Guild Board

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CONGRATULATIONS

WAG member, **Phil Uhl** has a digital image, "Pre Wash" now on display at the Smithsonian. This image was one of two that he exhibited in "Artists of Hawaii" at The Honolulu Academy of Arts last summer. The image is one of 120 works selected from 12,000 entries from twenty-eight countries, for the 2006 "Nature's Best Photography" exhibition. A selection of the winners are on display at the National Museum of Natural History until mid March. Congratulations Phil, on your success. We are delighted for you.

OPPORTUNITIES

Honolulu Printmakers invites all print artists in Hawaii to participate in its 79th annual exhibition, running March 1-16 at the Academy Art Center. Artists must become members of the organization and may submit up to three entries. Entry day is Feb. 23, 2-6 at the center. Call 536-5507 for more information.

Daunna's Art Studio in Kailua WAG member **Daunna Yanoviak** teaches classes Wed-Sat, day and evening two hour classes. Call 261-1168 or visit her website at www.daunnasartstudio.com.

Windward Wanderers If you want to join this plein air group send an e-mail to Joan Fleming, tutujoan@earthlink.net, to find out where they are meeting. They meet every Wednesday morning at 9 am. Next week, Wed. Feb. 14, they will meet in downtown Kailua, near Brent's in the parking lot behind Straub Clinic, Island Treasures, and First Hawaiian Bank, at around 9 am. Lunch will be at the new Kalapawai Deli near the Kailua Road and Hamakua intersection.

Guests Gallery has an International Art Show on line. If you are interested, visit their gallery at <http://www.guestsgallery.com>. Their call for entries is at this address: www.guestsgallery.com/callforentries.htm. Deadline is Feb. 20 for the realism exhibition.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 6 Board meeting at the home of Frances Hill
455 Ka Awakea Road, 6:30 pm
- April 22 Annual Meeting of Windward Artists Guild
Home of Frances Hill, 455 Ka Awakea Road
Sunday afternoon, 1:30-4:00.
Election of officers and sharing of artists' creations. Be sure to save the date.
- October Windward Artists Guild Exhibition at
Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens Gallery

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

This is the time to say thank you to the many persons who make the Windward Artists Guild the vibrant organization that it is.

First of all, thank you to all who made the holiday party into such a gala event. To **Shirley Samuelson**, our hospitality chair, for endless hours spent organizing the details with Mid-Pacific Country Club. The food was wonderful, the environment was beautiful, and all the details were handled well. To **Jane Raissle** and **Constance Olivia** for assisting with registration and the beginning icebreaker game. To **Frances Hill** for preparations for this game and for the prizes even though she could not be present at the party. To **Walter Flood** for his capable administering of the White Elephant event. To **Tom McCluskey** for donating a painting and a black light for the door prize. To **Don Johnson** for arranging our speaker for the event. And to **Paul Hosch** for his enlightening, entertaining, encouraging talk and slide show. And of course, to **all of you** who chose to bring your gifts and join the group for this evening of celebration and hilarity. Our members who choose to be active in the Windward Artists Guild are the life blood of the organization. To each of you we say thank you.

Our next big mahalo goes out to **Gordon Uyehara**. All year long, he keeps the membership up-to-date, prints labels for the newsletter, prints lists for exhibitions and other events. Then in November, he publishes the new roster, which is a large commitment of time. Our new rosters were passed out at the holiday party. If you were absent, the roster was mailed to you by first class mail in January. Thank you Gordon for all you do all year to help Windward Artists Guild.

Thank you to our board members who work tirelessly all year for the organization. To **President Frances Hill** for organizing the group and helping the board to set visions and goals, to **First Vice-President Jane Raissle** for organizing all the details of the exhibitions, to **Second Vice-President Gordon Uyehara** for keeping track of the membership, to **Recording Secretary Brian Aburano** for writing minutes and publishing them every month, to **Treasurer Rod Kobara** for keeping the money facts together, to **Newsletter Editor Ruth Johnson** for communicating information by printed page, to **Web Master Walter Flood** for communicating information via the internet, to **Tom McCluskey** for publicity, and to **Corresponding Secretary Heidi Levora** for writing letters to patrons, to **Don Johnson** for organizing speakers, to **Charlotte Maxwell** for keeping the historical records, to **Shirley Samuelson** for organizing hospitality for exhibitions, meetings, and parties, and to **Tomi Kobara** for continuing to attend board meetings to advise us in decisions. We thank each of you for your commitment.

To all our members who help in any way with exhibitions, receptions, newsletters, ideas, moral support, we say thank you. **May you have a great year of pursuing your dreams.**

REJECTION: PLAYING THE GAME

By Marilyn Noble

(The following ideas are excerpts quoted from an article in *Creative Wisdom*, published by *Sculptural Pursuit Magazine*. in November, 2006. Thanks to Jane Raissle for calling it to your editor's attention.)

"Professional artists know rejection is part of the game - it happens to everybody. The difference between satisfying success and bitter failure is how you handle it. Rejection always hurts, but accepting the pain and moving on is critical to building your career. How do you do that?"

1. Turn loose of your work. As with a child that you bring into the world and raise, at some point you have to let go. Your children move into other relationships in life, and so must your art. You can still love the pieces you create, but allow others to love them, or not, as well.

2. Realize your work is not You. Your work may be the deepest expression of your soul, but it's not your soul. Rejection has little to do with you, and everything to do with the viewer. Jurors and others who examine your work do so through their own lenses of life experience. Sometimes they relate, sometimes they don't. It doesn't mean they don't like, admire, respect, or even know You.

3. Rejection is not necessarily criticism. Galleries, jurors, and others who make choices about work make those decisions based on criteria about which you may not know. They may reject your work not because it's poor quality, but because they have enough bronze figures, or abstract stone, or wood miniatures. Maybe it's simply not a fit for the gallery or show. Much of the time it has nothing to do with your talent, your statement, or your creative expression.

4. With criticism, accept what makes sense to you and ignore the rest. Everybody has an opinion, and most people don't hesitate to express theirs. Consider the source of the criticism. If an art professional tells you your piece lacks proportion and gives you some ideas about fixing it, pay closer attention than you would to a collector who lives in a house full of ceramic frogs who tells you your abstract female figure doesn't have any personality. It's important to listen with an open mind, and then take an objective look at your work. If you can see how it would improve by incorporating someone's suggestions, do it. If not, let the comments go.

5. As my best friend says, honor the process. Continue to improve your skills, stay true to your vision, create your art, and send it out into the world. Let go of your attachment to the results. Sometimes you'll feel the sting of rejection; other times you'll feel the happiness of success. It's all part of the journey. As in life, the journey is just as important as the destination.

6. When all else fails, comfort yourself with the thought that every *no* leads one step closer to *yes*. You'll learn to relish the rejection because you know acceptance is imminent. A writing friend of mine plays something he calls the Rejection Game. His aim is to collect one hundred rejection slips all while writing the best he can. He's never reached the goal because he gets so many acceptances along with the rejections that he doesn't have time to keep playing the game."