



News Release

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HAWAI‘I NEI 2009: ART CONTEST SELECTIONS MADE

VOLCANO – The jury is in for “Hawai‘i Nei 2009”! Over 100 pieces of art work were selected by jurors for inclusion in the island’s first juried art show celebrating Hawai‘i’s native flora and fauna, from reef to ridge.

Jurors evaluated nearly 150 art pieces submitted for this unique new exhibition. Species depicted ran the gamut, from ulua aukea (giant white jack fish) to endemic honeycreepers (forest birds) and ‘ohi‘a lehua trees to the rare, endangered hau kuahiwi (hibiscus relative). The three-person jury included Linda Pratt and Thane Pratt, both career biologists in Hawai‘i, and Codie King, Gallery Director of the Wailoa Center in Hilo.

King, a veteran of many juried shows, states, “I was honored and excited to co-jury the first Hawai‘i Nei Art Exhibit 2009. Hopefully my art background and opinion lent itself to help produce a very strong exhibit. The children’s art was delightful and the adult division yielded a volume of high quality of art work to choose from. The celebration of our native species will be most evident in this beautiful display.”

The “Hawai‘i Nei” exhibition features work by local artists of all ages, from keiki to kupuna. Pieces selected for the show includes a wide array of styles and media including oil painting, scratchboard, metal sculpture, fiber art, stained glass, and even an original music score and performance.

Nearly 40 awards and prizes will be given out to finalists in all divisions at the opening reception on June 13. The show officially opens with a Keiki Reception from 2 to 4 p.m. for K-12 artists and their families. A formal reception, replete with light refreshments and a chance to meet some of the artists, follows that evening from 5 to 7 p.m. In addition to the art work, educational displays highlight island-based ecosystem conservation programs.

The exhibition includes several well-known Big Island artists, such as watercolorist Marian Berger, photographer Jack Jeffrey, painter Kathleen Kam, and ceramicist Emily Herb. Plus, young artists present work that ranges from pencil drawings and colorful block prints to miniature ceramics and tabletop dioramas.

(more)

“Hawai'i Nei 2009” runs June 13 to August 2 at the Volcano Art Center Gallery, located in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The receptions and exhibition are free, though park fees apply. Art work will also be shown in the lobby of the Volcano House and in Volcano Village at Volcano Art Center's Niaulani Campus. For more information, call 967-7565 or visit www.volcanoartcenter.org.

This exhibition is sponsored by the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Natural Area Reserves System, the Three Mountain Alliance watershed partnership, and the Volcano Art Center.

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