



Hawai'i Nei 2012

AN ART CONTEST CELEBRATING NATIVE SPECIES OF HAWAI'I ISLAND

NOVEMBER 2 – NOVEMBER 29, 2012

Featured Prize Categories

A new element of Hawai'i Nei 2012 is the featured categories. In order to highlight important issues and exciting aspects of our environment, Hawai'i Nei will begin to feature one to three categories per year. While an artist's subject is not limited to these categories, it may help to bring focus for participants, especially the youth.

This year we are excited to feature two categories:

- 1) *Hahai nō ka ua i ka ululā'au*: The rain follows the forest
- 2) *'Ala Lā*: The rising of a new day; the restoration of the 'Alalā

1) *Hahai nō ka ua i ka ululā'au*, meaning “the rain follows the forest”, is a category based on an *ōlelo no'eau*. Ancient Hawaiians were aware that the health and abundance of the forests drew clouds to the land and thus perpetuated the cycle of rain. This precipitation filters slowly into the earth, making its way to our aquifers. These aquifers are a source for fresh water, for both ancient Hawaiians and current Hawai'i residents. With the decline of our native forests, the rainfall has decreased steadily over the last century, with a shocking twelve percent drop in the last 20 years alone. Today we are becoming increasingly aware that our interactions with our environment effect the resources we depend on. The intent of this category is to highlight the connection between our native forests and the water we depend on for our current quality of life.

Artists are encouraged to reflect on this theme and interperate as they see fit with two restrictions. **To qualify for this category, pieces must feature two things: 1) a water element and 2) a species or landscape native to Hawai'i Island.** While landscapes will be accepted, artwork must follow the overarching rules of the exhibition. Pieces will not be accepted if they do not feature landscapes and/or species native to Hawai'i Island. Upon submission artists may indicate that pieces are being submitted to this category. Due to its conceptual nature of this category we do not wish to overlook any piece created with this category in mind.

2) *'Ala Lā*, the rising of a new day. The name of this majestic raven speaks to the rise of the day, a new dawn. This species is entering time of hope filled with the promise that it may once again fly through Hawaiian skies. Hawaii was once home to flocks of ravens whose calls rang throughout the native forests. Unfortunately due to changes in Hawaii's landscapes, deforestation and the introduction of non-native animals, plants and diseases, this species has been driven to the brink of extinction. Today there are no known 'Alalā left in Hawai'i's forests. The last of their kind live in captive breeding facilities on Hawai'i Island as well as on Maui. While this is disheartening news, there is hope for their population. A restoration of this species into the wild is currently being planned. While there are many passionate people working towards this goal, the support of communities across Hawai'i Island is needed to ensure this species' survival in the wild. This category celebrates the 'alalā, a survivor that has held on despite its multitude of challenges.