

# The Hui No'eanu **Maui Mural Project** Presents: **WHAT MAKES MAUI MAUI?** A Public Art Collaboration with Shira Walinsky



On July 5, 2012, Hui No'eanu welcomed the first of two Artists-in-Residence from the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program (MAP), **Shira Walinsky**.

During her 14-day residency, Shira collaborated with our Maui population to create a large-scale work of public art that reflects, inspires and represents our community. The resulting piece you see here is the first installment to the **Hui No'eanu Maui Mural Project**, a public art initiative that seeks to catalyze a community exchange about our local identity.

**Artist Statement:** "This mural is a hybrid response to the numerous conversations I had with Maui residents during my 6 months of research and my own response to Maui. Coming into this mural project, I was set to do a mural focusing on the interconnectedness of cultures on Maui, connections to the ocean and symbolic elements from history. The more I thought about the complexity surrounding issues of historic representation, the more I wanted to focus on aspects of culture and nature. In order to create a mural attempting to portray a native Hawaiian voice, I felt I would have needed at least a year of researching and talking to people.

"Immediately upon arriving on Maui, I was blown away by being in a place where one can see a volcano and mountain and ocean from the same view, the image of a tree growing within a tree and the brilliant light and color of the island. After multiple design attempts and continuous feedback received from teachers, I felt the mural needed to indicate land, ocean and references to culture. The back of the mural responds to the color, light, water and massive clouds on Maui. The front of the mural is based on my own woodcuts and patterns from Japanese and Chinese artwork with a traditional Hawaiian boat mixed into the composition. In the end many of my conversations circled back to the history of land and water on Maui and the future of these resources. Who controls land? Will sustainable agriculture be Maui's future or will development/tourism dominate. These were some important questions in of conversations with many people on Maui."

**About the Artist:** With an MFA in painting from the University of Pennsylvania, Shira Walinsky is a painter, printmaker and muralist who has been a featured artist with the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program since 2000. Her interdisciplinary work explores cultures and subcultures of distinct urban areas that use personal narratives to reflect larger issues, transform public spaces, and develop a visual language using typography, portraits and textiles. She teaches at the University of Pennsylvania, University of the Arts, Princeton University, Bryn Mawr College and Drexel University.

This October, we will welcome the second of MAP's mural artists, **Eric Okdeh**, for a 21-day residency to share his talents & tools with Maui residents & visitors. Have an idea about who should be involved and where it should be installed? Give us a ring at (808) 572-6560.



Hui No'eanu is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts education organization. Since 1934, it has provided an accessible space for the community to experience and celebrate the visual arts through classes for all ages, lectures, exhibitions, events, tours, and educational outreach programs. The Hui relies on charitable contributions to help advance its mission of unlocking creativity through exceptional visual arts education. **Please consider making a donation today!**

**MURAL TEAM:** Artist Assistant Adam Carrigan • Build Volunteers Andrew Brodzinski, Don Bernshouse and Gilson Killhour • Mural Students Lana Davis, Kalyn Dorheim, Sedona Estomo, Audrey Ginger, Gabe Killhour, Valentin Miro Quesada, Kenui Smythe-Fujiwara, Annie Terwilliger, Elliott Cost, Rosario Virasoro, Laurie Furumoto, Mike Takemoto, Matthew Clement and Connie Adams • Mural Painters Tim Garcia, Valentin Miro Quesada, Caroline Killhour, Jessica, Star, Ashley, Lisa Morrison, Bryson and Danno Kolohe Weiss • Planning Team Kelly McHugh, Anne-Marie Forsythe and Lana Coryell

**MURAL CONSULTANTS:** Nancy Aleck, Hawai'i People's Fund • Irene Bowie, Maui Tomorrow • Robin Curammeng, Maui High School • Scott Fisher, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust • Tim Garcia, Artist • Hokulani Holt & Kahulu Maluo, Maui Arts & Cultural Center • Paul Janes-Brown, Vision Actualizer • Priscilla Mikell, Kamehameha Schools Maui • Valentin Miro-Quesada, Artist • Michael Moore, Arts Enthusiast & Entrepreneur • Helen Nielsen, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust • Jen Russo, Maui Time • Shai-Anne Shamblin, Artist • Rae Takemoto, Pomaikai Elementary School • Moani Wagner, Hawaiian Cultural Practices Institute • Paul Wood, Writer & Teacher

## **STEP 1: BRAINSTORM WITH A MURAL ADVISORY GROUP**



Months before Shira's arrival on Maui, she devised three key questions that would help develop the mural theme: 1) What creates a sense of "home" for you here? 2) What would/ could make Maui "better"? 3) What is it that makes Maui "Maui"? During one-on-one conversations with some of Maui's top thinkers, leaders & creators, many different points of view were translated into preliminary sketches by the artist, which were presented, discussed and revised. Paired with the feedback garnered by our Facebook page, Twitter feed, FLASH Newsletters and the Hui Blog, a wide range of reactions and ideas gradually became a set of incredible blueprints for the mural composition.

## **STEP 2: CONNECT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**



During Shira's 2-week residency, we organized multiple opportunities to interact and work alongside the artist. A welcome breakfast & discussion, presentation at the Maui Non-Profit Directors Association membership meeting, teen intensive workshop, mural making class, "Teach the Teachers" seminar for classroom teachers, lecture and public paint days each offered ways to give and receive feedback.

## **STEP 3: ESTABLISH THE DESIGN & COLOR PALETTE**



Shira's design changed dramatically once she arrived on Maui and became aware of its powerful shadows, colors and elements — and continued to change as she interacted with more & more members of our community. Applying her extensive training as a visual artist and vast experience as a muralist, she analyzed, experimented and problem-solved, ultimately delivering the stunning and thoughtful piece that we will enjoy for years to come.

## **STEP 4: PAINT, INSTALL AND EXCHANGE**



The finished work of art is just the beginning; Shira's mural represents a conversation about how our Maui community conceptualizes itself. Murals are important in that they bring art into the public sphere, impacting the attitudes of passers by (whether consciously or subconsciously) and continuing the conversation about "What Makes Maui MAUI." Public art exposes our entire community — artists and non-artists alike — to creativity; makes the places where we live, work and play more welcoming and beautiful; creates a deeper interaction with our environment; and allows our community to express its identity and values.