

CURATOR'S STATEMENT



The approach in curating this exhibition Wahi Pana: A Sense of Place was a deeply personal process and perhaps more subjective than other art exhibitions hosted outside of Hawai'i. I approached then AHA President Linda Umstead for permission to write a proposal for a show that would explore a question I have been wrestling with personally in my own work as an artist and feed a passion I have had as long as I can remember: sharing my love for the 'aina and being a good steward of the kuleana I am given to mālama.

What would happen if I knew more about a particular place, its significance to those who know it well? Would it affect my art, my choices? Would a viewer be able to see there was a difference? Would I?

Fortunately the HoMA selection committee for the Art School Exhibition program also thought it was an interesting idea to allow artists to explore.

Relying on Hawaiian cultural practitioners and historical experts, AHA invited all resident artists in a wide array of media and background to participate. Wahi Pana provided the opportunity for input through mo'olelo about selected wahi pana sites and a specific time to create in a collective during a three-day window of art creation. The results prompted 48 artists to submit over 100 entries but there were also artists who came out for the huakai and the art creation

event but chose not to enter work at this time. From my discussions with those artists, they gained inspiration and insight without feeling the need to share their work, citing the richness they experienced and will explore further.

Consideration of technical execution, validity, content, and integration as well as forming an experience within the gallery space was a consideration in final selection. In my experience, we all have a world view which colors all we see and perceive. I looked for evidence of the artist being open to new insight and inspiration—reflected in their written descriptions as well as the artwork itself to reveal a connection to their wahi pana. This exhibition allows the artwork's mana (spirit or power) to reveal itself, to the artist and the viewer.

My congratulations and admiration to all of the artists who patiently and bravely explored these questions with me.

Mālama pono kākou
Dawn Yoshimura

GUARDIAN OF POKA'I

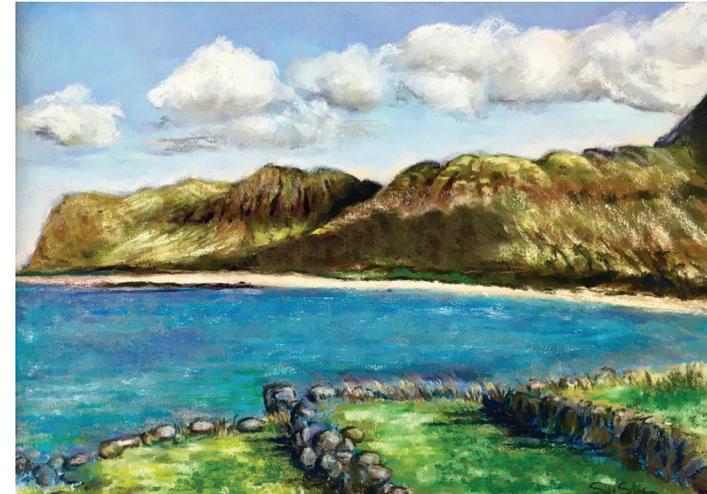
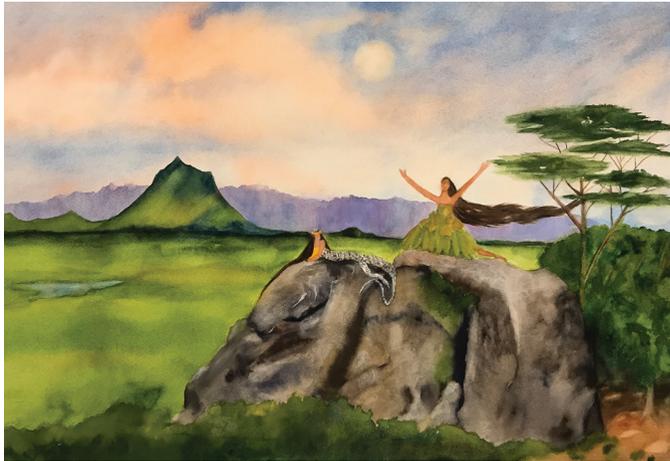
Stranger to this peaceful, sheltered
land

Pay my respects to Ku'ilioloa
asking permission to linger.

Pu'u Ma'ili'ili & Twins Pu'u O
Hulu Welcome me. "E Komo Mai"
they beckoned, "join us".

Their Aloha warm my heart. I
plant my soul in the 'aina, for
decades watching over Poka'i Bay.
I am the guardian!

—Frances Wong



Beth Anderson
Hauwahine and Mahina at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine
watercolor 15x22in
Kailua5@aol.com 808-224-6081

Su Calder Atta
Malaea Anticipation
soft pastel 9.5x13in
sushen@hawaii.rr.com 808-226-3883

Beth Anderson
Ulupo Heiau
watercolor 12x16in
Kailua5@aol.com 808-224-6081

Suzanne Barnes
Dusk on Kawainui Marsh
pastel 12x16in
suzanne.barnes319@gmail.com 920-655-7355