



Calendar News

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

MAY/JUNE 2005



Hawaii in Paris: The Art of Hula

Hawaii in Paris: The Art

EDUCATION GALLERY JULY 7-31

The Academy of Arts will present *Hawai'i in Paris: The Art of Hula* July 7th through the 31st in the Education Wing Gallery. This unique artistic and educational exchange will celebrate the inspiration of hula in a world context as seen through works produced by 10 international artists living and working in Paris. Guest curating the exhibition is Manoa-born Sandra "Kilohana" Kwock-Silve, who has lived in Paris for over 25 years. Although her main activities center around her career as an art critic and historian, she has always had a great love for hula. "Dancing hula is like painting pictures in space with one's entire being" says Silve. She has had the privilege to study with such respected kumu hula as Emma Bishop, Ellen Castillo and most recently Uncle George Holokai. In the early 90's she founded the first hula school in France, Halau Hula O Manoa, and has taught hula for the last

15 years in Paris. For Silve Hawaiian traditions are a respected spiritual legacy. She frequently draws on the counsel of Hawaiian language experts Puakea Nogelmeier, Carol Silva, 'Ipolani Vaughn and Milton Ke'aulana Holt. Silve initiated the Art of Hula project to capture the grace and power of hula in expressions of contemporary art by inviting artists into the studio to create works as they observed dancers in training during a 4 year period.

The exhibition features over 50 works in a wide variety of media including photography, collage, ink, watercolor, oil and small-scale models for the prototype of a children's board game. The works range from abstract interpretations of Pele's power to highly figurative renderings of the beauty of hula in motion. An exhibit of watercolor studies

and preliminary drawings made in the studio will also be on view in the Art Center's upstairs gallery. A film by Arnaud Dufour made for French television that documents the artists working during hula practice sessions is included in the exhibition. Artists include: Kathy Burke, Betsy Castleman-Demez, Sylef, Matsutani, Kate Van Houten, Therese Multz, Svetlana Loboff, Bob Bishop, Arnaud Ville, and Monica San Cristobal.

In France, Kwock-Silve's halau has shared their hula in numerous cultural exhibitions, including the Biarritz Surf Festival. The Art of Hula started when an artist friend, Kathy Burke, sketched a hula performance at the Russian Conservatory in Paris. She shared the drawings with Silve, who conceived of a long-term plan to join the art and

dance together. She will bring some 30 dancers and artists from Paris for free performances at the Doris Duke Theatre on July 17 at 4 p.m. and at Honolulu Hale's newly renovated auditorium with Nola Nahulu's



Hawaiian chorale ensemble Kawaiolaonapukanileo on July 9th at 7 p.m. The Academy presentation will incorporate a performance art piece with visual artists creating an actual work of art on stage. These events will be filmed by a French documentary film crew for European television.

Another aspect of Silve's France-Hawai'i cultural exchange will be a Honolulu Hale summer exhibit of hula-inspired children's art "Visions of Hula" produced in Waianae and Nanakuli with the cooperation of the Konishiki Learning Center Arts Program and the Academy's Art To Go program. This hands-on learning experience will involve children drawing or painting during a halau's practice session to discover ways of expressing the

of Hula

essence of hula movements on paper with local adult artists as mentors and teachers. Silve also plans an exchange of art and culture for French and Hawaiian artists and Halau Hula to be showcased in France in 2007.



Photo: Courtesy of ARII

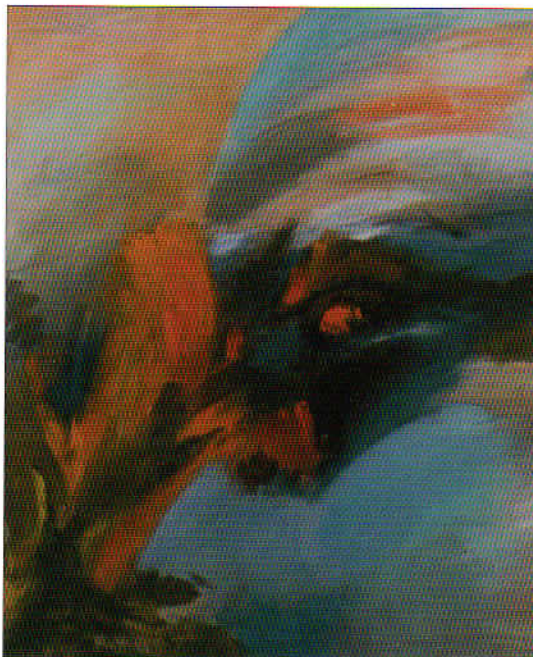


Photo: Courtesy of ARII

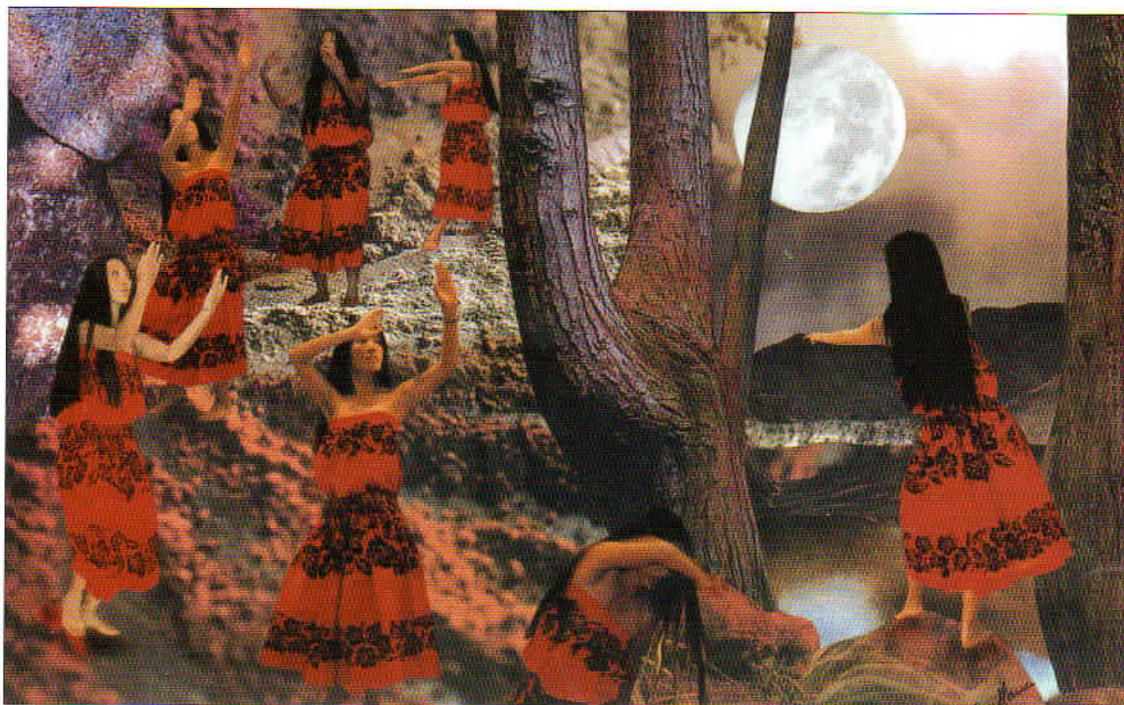


Photo: Courtesy of ARII

far left:
Kate van Houten, France
Pele Caught a Bird
Oil on Canvas

top left:
T. Multz, France
Closeup of Hula dancer
B&W Photograph

top right:
Betsy Castleman-Damez,
France
Pele
Acrylic on canvas
32 x 32 in.

bottom:
Sylef, France
Hula moon
Photo Montage