

LONG ON **Art...**

Painter, Illustrator Prospers In Many Mediums

By MaryAnne Long

Multi-talented and skilled artists fascinate me. I struggle to work in one medium, while they become proficient in many.

One such artist is Harinani Kalohelani Orme, a gifted creative who excels as a fine arts painter, book illustrator, printmaker, ceramicist and jeweler.

Orme is a Native Hawaiian artist who was born and raised in Honolulu. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from University of Hawai'i at Manoa and her master's from Pratt Institute in New York. She also teaches various artforms in Hawai'i and beyond.

Her current work focuses on the myths, legends and traditions of old Hawai'i. Combining her expertise in painting and printmaking, she creates striking graphic qualities that enhance her narrative style.

She approaches her art as an ongoing process of experimentation in which she gathers and assembles, allowing each piece to develop naturally until it takes on a life of its own.

Orme described herself as "born creative and artistically inclined."

When asked to share some tips, she replies, "Draw every day, even crazy and wild things from your imagination. If drawing from nature, still life or portraits, draw what you see, not what you know. Try all kinds of art mediums.

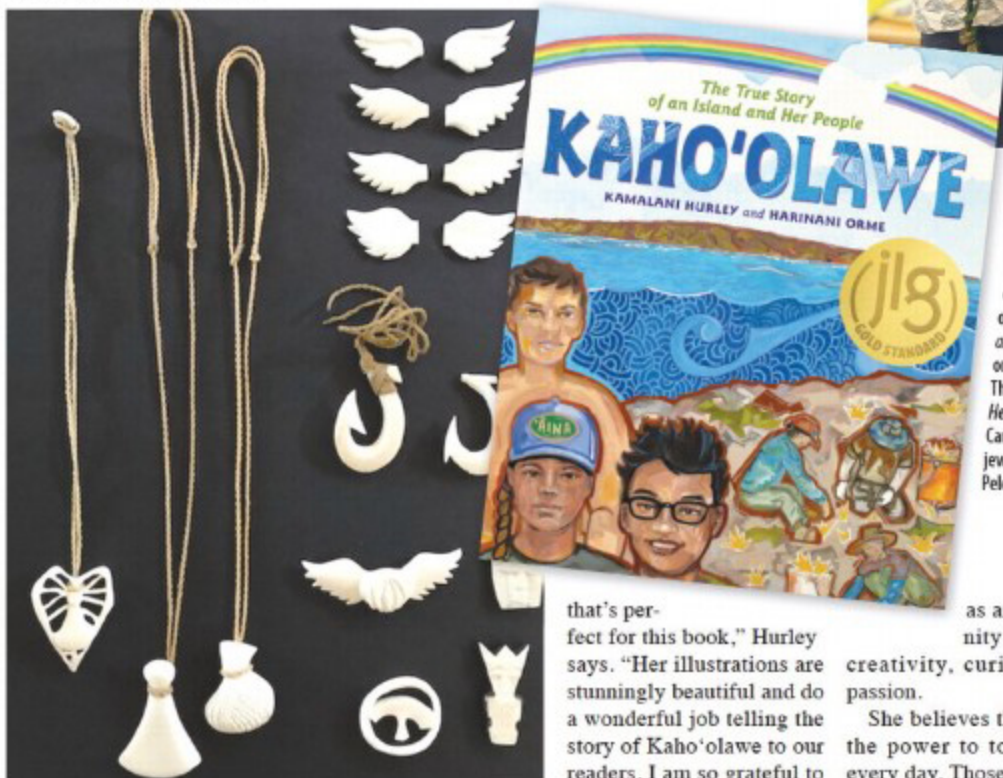
"Be disciplined; keep practicing your skills, craft and techniques. There are no mistakes. Every mark you

make is important because it leads to better drawings."

One of her latest projects was illustrating the newly released book *Kaho'olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People* by author Kamalani Hurley.

This beautifully illustrated work tells the compelling story of Hawai'i's smallest island, and explores themes of loss and erasure, sacrifice and dedication, and, ultimately, restoration. It celebrates hope, resilience and aloha 'aina — a deep and abiding love for the land.

Hurley says that because of the cultural subject of her



book, she asked her publisher to find a Native Hawaiian illustrator.

"Harinani's Native Hawaiian heritage gave her an authentic point of view

that's perfect for this book," Hurley says. "Her illustrations are stunningly beautiful and do a wonderful job telling the story of Kaho'olawe to our readers. I am so grateful to have worked with this talented artistic genius."

Orme sees her role as a teacher, mentor and artist

as an opportunity to inspire creativity, curiosity and passion.

She believes that art has the power to touch lives every day. Those who view her work can experience the true depth and meaning of her words. One very public place to see her work is

on floor tiles at Pearlridge Shopping Center's Wai Makai. Next time you're there, take a look.

MaryAnne Long is also an artist, art instructor, art collector and curator. Contact info: 88malhi@gmail.com or longstart.weebly.com.

(Clockwise from top left) The cover of *The Raven and the Sun*, illustrated by Harinani Orme. It was commissioned by Bishop Museum and ECHO in 2006 and launched her career as an illustrator. PHOTOS COURTESY HARINANI ORME; Harinani Orme and Kamalani Hurley share some of their favorite pages from *Kaho'olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People* at Native Books at Arts & Letters on Nu'uauu Avenue. PHOTO COURTESY DEBBIE YOUNG; The cover of *Kaho'olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People*, illustrated by Orme and designed by Danielle Carnito of Lerner Publishing Group; Orme's cow-bone jewelry made at Windward Community College with kumu Peleka Sacatropoz.