

# Artist Personal Profile

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**Seniloli Salata Sovea**  
Fijian Artist

**Mrs. Seniloli** hails from the village of Viseisei in Vuda and the ideas for making handicraft came naturally to her and through her visits to other countries. She is a professional and a Senior Crafts practitioner. She is a former President of the Fiji Crafts Society and has travelled extensively for regional and international exhibitions and has also attended numerous workshops and Festivals both at international and regional level. She is a live member of the Fiji Craft Society under the umbrella of the Fiji Arts Council.



She has been presented with numerous Awards by the Fiji Arts Council for outstanding contributions towards the development of Contemporary Art in Fiji. One of her latest prestigious award was the awarding of her Fijian Crafted Certificate by the Attorney - General and Minister of Trade, Mr. Aiyaz Sayed- Khaiyum in June 2013. The certification allows a member of the Fiji Craft Society to promote authentic Fijian Made Products and giving them an opportunity to empower craft practitioners to showcase their skills at the International markets.

Weaving, designing, carving and being creative are something Seniloli Sovea has been doing for the past 40 years. With her creative talents she was able to open up a craft stall at the Suva Flea Market and had continued to operate from her home village in Viseisei, Vuda where she now resides as a retiree.

"In those days I managed to supplement my husband's income as a contribution to care for my family. When my husband passed away I managed to bring up my five children through my craftsmanship. This is something I love most; it's part of me and my everyday living, "and I love sharing my creative knowledge with those interested in my line of work."

Ms Sovea makes decorative necklaces with shells, mirrors, jewelry, wall hangings and many other crafts using local materials like masi, (bark of mulberry tree) voivoi (pandanus leaves) and sea shells.

"I have been involved with the Pasifika Mama Festival at Coburn Art & Cultural Centre at Henderson, Auckland, New Zealand for the past 3 years which I always never want to miss. This is an annual event which involves dances, cultural songs and showcasing skills in craftsmanship for the Pacific women. An event I fully recommend that Pacific Women attend for the Pacific Cultures Development."

## Personal Contact:

Phone: 710 3989

resource person



**Niqa Tuvuki**

Fiji Arts Council  
President Fiji Crafts Society

- M - (679) 9090 - 072
- T - (679) 3311 - 754
- F - (679) 3311 - 962
- E - niqatuvuki@hotmail.com
- A - Level 1, Procera House  
Lot7, Waimanu Suva.

[www.fijiartscouncil.com](http://www.fijiartscouncil.com)