

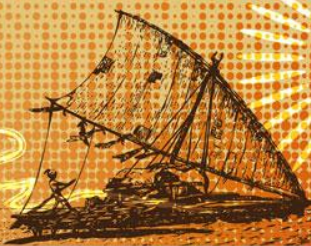
Artist Personal Profile

Personal Profile



FINAU MARA
Fijian Artist

Finau Mara hails from the village of Namuka, Kabara in Lau. She was born into a family of weavers and was originally taught by her grandmother to weave from a very young age. While kids of her age were running around playing and enjoying a carefree life, Finau Mara was stuck to her grandmother's side learning the Art of Weaving. That is about the most vivid memory she can recall in her life while growing up in her village.



With all the weaving experiences and techniques she learnt from her grandmother she confesses that she really cannot thank her grandmother enough, because those boring weaving lesson, facing those trials and hardships from young age, into marriage life up until today has now paid off. She now has the ultimate in the skills required to be a prominent and professional weaver and is clearly evident by the many prizes and awards she has won for her outstanding work. As time went by, her talent was noticed and as her business began to make profit she had established a stall in the Suva Craft Centre where she now sells her unique products, ranging from weaved baskets, bags, purses, mats and miniature decorations and wall hanging.

"First thing I learnt to weave was mats, then I began to weave fans and other house decorations. I usually questioned my grandmother as to why I had to learn all the different types of crafts, she answered that every girl should know and learn something about her traditions and cultures; "I wished she would be still alive today so I could tell her how much I have appreciated all she has taught me about weaving.

Finau has been instrumental in most of the Community up skilling weaving workshop organized by the Fiji Arts Council in the past years and have recently added training in the (PEMAC) Physical Education , Music, Art & Craft Teachers Workshops held in the Western and Northern Divisions, latest one in Lautoka in September 2013

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