

# Artist Personal Profile

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**Neomai Vakarau**  
Fijian Artist

Neomai Vakarau has been in Craft business for almost 20 years. Originally taught by her late mother Finau Mara, who mastered the art of weaving before she managed their family business at the Curio Handicraft Stall #54 in Suva where she now operates daily.

She is renowned for her intricate weaving designs woven on fine mats and making baskets of various sizes and shapes for various purposes according to market demand and for special orders such as for international, regional and local conferences, using local materials such as pandanus leaves.

Neomai has represented Fiji in various International Festivals such as the South Pacific Festival of Arts in American Samoa (2008), Pacifica



Festival in Auckland, New Zealand (2004) and has been a popular figure in numerous Fiji Art Council Craft Shows event staged in Nadi and Suva

She has now established steady markets with Jacks Handicraft in Suva and other outlets in Nadi as well as Tapoos, in addition to these markets, she has been very popular to receive orders from various Government Ministries to produce meeting bags for International Meetings hosted by Fiji.

"It is a family team work", she states, keeping our relationship intact as a family and at the same time we learn and share our knowledge amongst the family members."

Younger members of her family have now been taught the knowledge of weaving and most of all she is confident that the knowledge and skills of weaving that was taught by her late mother will be passed on to the next generation.

Neomai has surely followed her late mother's footsteps to become a prominent and a professional weaver and is clearly evident of receiving the many numerous Top Awards in past Craft competitions organized by the Fiji Arts Council and has been very instrumental in most Community Craft Development Workshops, sharing her Art to village women and youths alike.

Being a Fijian Crafted License recipient for the past years, has enabled her to gain recognition of her remarkable weaving skills that benchmarks Fijian quality standards which upholds outstanding workmanship.

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