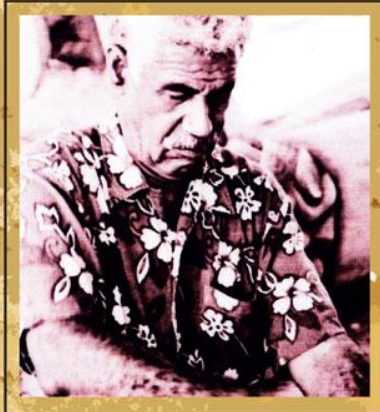


Artist Personal Profile

Personal Profile

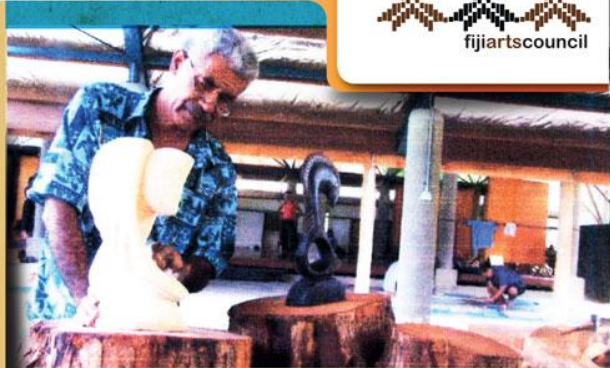


PAULA LIGAIRUA
Fijian Artist

Paula has been carving since he was a young boy in his village Fulaga, in the Lau Group

The village of Fulaga is renowned throughout Fiji for its long tradition of highly-skilled wood carvers. Paula's father was a carver, and Paula learnt how to carve tanoa, war clubs and figures from watching him. He moved to Suva in 1966 to attend Bible School. He left after 2 years and continued to carve. This time for the tourist markets on Viti Levu, the main island of Fiji.

In 1994 Paula went to the University of the South Pacific as a Part Time Tutor and later was invited by the Oceania Centre by Professor Epeli Hau'ofa to explore contemporary, creative wood carving.



"I have never regretted the wealth of knowledge passed down by my late father who was also my inspiration ever since to date"


His first solo exhibition, in 2001, was well received and from then on he brought his own creativity to his carving. At first his ideas came from books and conversations with Professor Epeli, and he created animals and figures linked into a single form.

"Now, the ideas come from my own mind and I find that the more I imagine creative sculptures, the more ideas I have. I do not see this contemporary style as breaking away from the traditional styles of Fulaga, but rather that I am the new generation of Fulaga carver." "And this is what I also see when my son displays his creations on his carvings" I had never regretted the wealth of knowledge passed down by my late Father who was also my inspiration ever since to date. I have taught my son in the art of carving and have been very successful in demonstrating unique designs that I am not able to carve"

Instead of breaking away, Paula Liga is creating just one more aspect of carving and he continues to carve the traditional forms as well. As the first Fijian to work in these contemporary forms, he sees himself as opening up opportunities to others and hopes that his example will help to stop the loss of carving in Fiji. He shares both the traditional and the contemporary carving techniques with his son and grandson, so as to continue the carving tradition in his family. Paula has exhibited

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