

# Artist Personal Profile

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**WANINOKE JIU**  
Fijian Artist



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Waninoke Jiu is a crafts woman. She was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1976 way back in her small island called Namuika-I -Lau, in the Lau Groups. she managed to learn and experienced how to live like a lauan native. She slowly adapted to their traditional and culture way of living. She quoted, that village life is not that very easy. She recalled the only two ways of earning their living is to collect coconut, dry them as copra, make tapa [masi] and sell them, to meet their family needs and wants and of cause the education of their children.

Like most of the Lauans do. For further Education and a better life from the village life style. They usually bring their family across to the main island [Viti Levu]. After a few weeks together in Suva as a happy family. Their Father had a marital relationship with another woman

But Waninoke's unemployed mother carried the responsibilities alone and took the challenges every day, in trying to raise them up. With the little knowledge and experience, she gained everyday from her grandmother and mother she use to collect scrape of masi, vau and voivoi sell them at the Handicrafts Market for their everyday welfare. With all the sacrifices and hardship they went through day in and day out.. She continued supporting her mother in making handicrafts throughout Primary school days, until she entered secondary school level..she could not continue because her mother cannot support her financially. She decided to be more serious in handicrafts making .She also entered a handicrafts competition, which was organized by the Fiji Arts Council, where she came out the best designer. She began to enjoy her God given talents.

On her wedding day, she actually printed her own traditional tapa cloth and his handsome bride groom's tapa cloth Namuka - I - Lau is also known as the island of tapa maker [masi designer..] Generation of today fail to understand the value of keeping our culture alive . It is an art which has been sent down through the ages to us and we need to cherish it. They have forgot the value and hidden meaning behind these designs. Youth of today thought, making masi is seem as something that will dirty their fingernail. We need to work harder to keep our customs alive.

