



AUNTIE ESTHER

Oil on canvas

30 x 24

{45}

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

As an artist I am inspired by Auntie Esther's youthful spirit and lifelong dedication and skill in weaving native *lauhala*. The concept is to portray Auntie Esther in a traditional manner because, as one of Kaua'i Museum's Living Treasures, she embodies tradition. I used heavier textures on her hands and facial features because that is where the *mana* is felt and the magic of weaving occurs—where I want the viewer to focus. Sensitive edges and subtle value changes in the hat she wears and in the hat she is weaving frame and unify the portrait. My goal was to portray on canvas Auntie Esther's love of *lauhala* weaving and overall sense of aloha.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Frederick Tangalin has been an artist by avocation since he was a child, working at it as a student throughout his youth and settling into work as a full-time artist in the late 1990s. His work gently evokes his experiences of the sugar plantations of his youth, an era that is fading slowly from the cultural landscape of Hawai'i. He owns and exhibits in the Sugar Mill Gallery in Kekaha on Kaua'i and has exhibited in Art Kaua'i since 1998.