

Diane Thornton



Artist Diane Thornton lives in Southern California, where she works primarily in watercolor and ink, focusing on tropical and botanical themes. “Having lived in Hawaii” she says, “many of my paintings reflect my time there.”

She started as a typesetter in commercial printing, then office support for WJLA-TV in Washington, DC, and the *Los Angeles Times* bureau there. A 26-year stopover in the SF Bay Area followed, where she returned to type and design, running a successful graphic design business that served Silicon Valley corporations and local government. After closing her design firm, it was a stint as Associate Art Director for *Stanford* magazine where she found her true calling: illustration. And once that illustration bug hit, there was no looking back. Today, you can find the playful style of her illustrations reflected in her fine art.



Hawaiian Mandala – Bird of Paradise

“I’m not much for expounding on my art as commentary or serious reflection of this or that,” she says. “I simply make art that makes me happy. When it makes other people happy, that makes me even happier.”

The other creative hat Ms. Thornton wears is that of author. Her books, *Scrap City* (middle-grade fantasy; Capstone Young Readers), and *Marvin Plotnik and the Sandy Rivers Hilltop Ranch for Wayward Youth, Juveniles, and Young Adults* (sci-fi humor, Monkeypod Publishing) have received much acclaim.

Requisite artist-in-the-studio shot. >



Shows and Exhibits

Nov 2015. Wailoa Arts and Cultural Center; Hilo, HI.

Hawai'i Nei 2015 art exhibition

featuring species native to the Big Island.

Juried. *Work exhibited:* “Insects of Hawaii I & II,” (watercolor-and-ink).



Nov 2013. Wailoa Arts and Cultural Center; Hilo, HI. **Hawai'i Nei 2013**

Juried. *Work exhibited:* “Ferns of Hawaii,” “Hawaiian Haha” (watercolor-and-ink).

Sept 2013. The Red Space, Hilo, HI.

Showcase x 3 featuring the work of three Big Island artists: **Bea Israel**, **Linda Peterson**, and **Diane Thornton**.

Sept 2012. Wailoa Center; Hilo, HI.

Paradise Studio Tour Artist Collective Wailoa Show. *Work exhibited:* “Mandala III: White Hibiscus,” “Tradewinds,” “A Day at the Beach.”

Jan 2012. East Hawaii Cultural Center; Hilo, HI. **100-Year Anniversary Exhibit for Hawaii Volcano Observatory.**

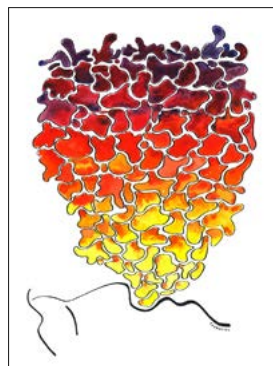
Juried. All pieces depicted images related to Kilauea volcano. *Work exhibited:* “Pele Dreams,” “Do-It-Yourself Lava Flow” (interactive).

Sept 2011. East Hawaii Cultural Center, Hilo, HI. **Annual Trash Art Show.** Juried.

Work exhibited: “Heliconia,” a triptych composed of thousands of pieces of box paper on three 24x24 canvases. Ms. Thornton was also honored with Recycle Hawaii’s **2011 Tutu Hana Hou Award** for her piece “Puppy’s First Year.” This wall hanging featured dozens of stuffed animals — stuffing coming out their eyes, mouths, and ears — which thankfully got a lot of laughs.

Oct 2009. East Hawaii Cultural Center, Hilo, HI. **Annual Trash Art Show.** *Work exhibited:* three abstract paper mosaics composed of strips of box paper.

Diane Thornton (cont'd)



You can find Ms. Thornton's work online at dsthornton.pixels.com

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