



The lacy canopy of a monkeypod tree is a natural draw at the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center in Makawao.

# Still Life

## The setting inspires at Maui's Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY BONNIE FRIEDMAN

"m standing under a squat monkeypod tree on a sunny, soft-breeze Maui morning. It's the shortest of three, but it has the biggest canopy of branches. They form an ethereal and peaceful shelter.

At the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center in Makawao, I've always gone directly to the art. But today, this city girl is here for the nature, and although I've been here many times, how is it possible that I'd never noticed these trees until now?

"This is one of my favorite spots on the property," says Lana Coryell, the arts center's Maui-born-and-raised director and my knowledgeable guide for the day.

The sprawling, 25-acre estate known as Kaluanui has been home to the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center since 1994. "You can still see some of the remains of the old mill We walk across the great lawn up to the sculpture garden. You can still see some of the remains of the old mill

from when this was a sugar plantation in the 1850s," she explains. "A lot of the art here is carved from trees that had to be removed."

We stop at a tree that remains. "This is 'uki'uki," she says. "Ancient Hawaiians used the berries to make indigo-colored dye for kapa. Hula dancers still use them to dye their costumes."

As we stroll, Coryell points out native botanicals—"aki, 'ahinahina, 'ihi, and kulunui; transplants—Italian cypress, plumera, date palm, kukui nut, shell ginger, and red, green, and variegated ti; and a veritable fruit salad—mango, lychee, orange, and banana.

"It really is like a park," she says. "We encourage people to use it, to have picnics. Folks come to fly kites, to do yoga. We love that. And it's all free, AAA.com

I love the estate's old outbuildings. 'ohi'a." plantings—so far, we've put in koa and outside area is devoted to native tree move to a greener future. This adjacent solar powered and represent the Hui's Our ceramics and jewelry studios are space for them to work on their own. ments, we provide a state-of-the-art classes or met some Hui require artists have successfully completed ask Coryell about that program. "After As we approach the Open Studio, I where there are photos to prove it!" when I was 5," she says, "and some- just 2 1/2. "I took my first class here explains, kids can start when they're the Tiny Hands studio, where, Coryell I hear little voices coming from including the exhibits."

Not always the most observant per- class in this building very soon. pinmaking studio. I resolve to take a repurposed space is the former car- riage house, now the well-equipped and banana trees—a true tropical Its' backed by lemon eucalyptus, guava, visiting artists and artists in residence. Behind it, a charming cottage houses accessible photography darkroom. dairy is now Hawaii's only publicly former stables. What used to be the Ceramics are glazed and fired in the



(Clockwise from top) "The Hui's" printmaking studio is located in a former carriage house. Displays include a sculpture garden and a collection of silver-plated copper hollowware crafted by the center's founder, Ethel Baldwin.



**DO** Visiting the Hui! No'eau Visual Arts Center to see the current exhibition and history room is free. Bring a picnic and relax. A guided, one-hour walking tour is \$12; spend \$6 on "Kaluanui: Plants at the Hui" for a self-guided tour. 2841 Baldwin Avenue, Makawao. (808) 572-6560; huihoeau.com.

**STAY** In Hawaiian, its name means "home expressing hospitality," and that's what you'll find at the charming Hale Ho'okipa Inn. Built in 1924, it's on both the national and Hawaii registers of historic places. From here, it's a quick walk to Makawao's great shopping and dining. Rates start at \$135. (808) 572-6698; mau-bed-and-breakfast.com. The pastoral Banyan Bed & Breakfast is a collection of plantation-style cottages and one large house that's perfect for groups of friends or extended families. Rates start at \$155. (808) 572-9021; bed-breakfast-mau.com.

For a farm-to-table breakfast or lunch, no place in town does it better than Market Fresh Bistro, where every egg dish is outstanding. (808) 572-4877; marketfreshbistro.com. Pick up provisions for a picnic at Rodeo General Store. (808) 572-1868. Stay Upcountry for dinner—a salad, pizza, and glass of wine at Casanova Italian Restaurant and Deli will make the day complete. (808) 572-0220; casanovamaui.com.

**EAT** For a farm-to-table breakfast or lunch, no place in town does it better than

Market Fresh Bistro, where every egg dish is outstanding. (808) 572-4877; marketfreshbistro.com. Pick up provisions for a picnic at Rodeo General Store. (808) 572-1868. Stay Upcountry for dinner—a salad, pizza, and glass of wine at Casanova Italian Restaurant and Deli will make the day complete. (808) 572-0220; casanovamaui.com.

Free Maui, the Valley Isle maps are available at the AAA Hawaii branch. For free TourBook information and TripAdvisor ratings, visit the branch or go to AAA.com/travel.