

	Artist Biography	Gallerie 505 505 Front Street Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii 96761 808.667.7932 • www.gallerie505.com
	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Frances Ku</h2>	



"My purpose as an artist is to convey a timeless beauty that moves us from deep within, enriching our lives in some unspoken way."

The journey toward becoming an artist began at the age of three, in Taipei, Taiwan. As a child, Frances Ku preferred drawing to doing anything else in the world. After she and her family moved to Okinawa, Japan, she avidly participated in art contests and exhibitions throughout the school and community.

Enticed by the idea of becoming a fashion designer, Ku applied and was accepted to Parsons School of Design in New York City, where an art instructor spotted her talent in painting and encouraged her to pursue fine art.

Frances Ku now lives on Maui, forging her mark on the art world with her exotic paintings. They are collected all over the world, gracing walls with figures and faces of women that are softly feminine yet strong, borrowing themes from diverse cultures, bygone eras, and a world beyond.

Water is an unpredictable and unforgiving element. It has a mind of its own and cannot be controlled in the same way one would with oil, acrylic, or pastel. "If I try to force it, all I end up with is a dull mess and expensive paper is ruined," says Ku. "Yet when I have a vision of what I want, and let the watercolor paints play with one another and form their own patterns and formations, I succeed."

The watercolor process is much more than painting, but also "staining" the paper. Each stain interacts with another stain in a certain way, depending on the type of paper, humidity, how she feels at the moment, steadiness of hand, and perhaps factors that are subconscious in her mind.

The first thing people notice about my watercolors is their bold vibrant colors. I do love color intensity and draw upon my imagination and impression of life. I hope my work reveals the infinite potential of this medium; the variety of techniques are a result of many years of experimenting with watercolor. In addition, the outcome of any painting can be varied by simply changing the type of paper surface as well as the ratio of water to paint.

Other water media, such as liquid acrylic, can be used in the same painting as watercolor. Applying my skill in traditional Chinese brush painting, the outcome is a delightful blend of the ancient and modern.

"Labor-intensive and time-consuming, yes." But happily Ku says, "the result is very satisfying."