BACKGROUND AND MORE ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

As images are a visual language, they allow the audience to enter into conversation with the work and its creators. This story workshop intends on sharing artist’s processes of creating and developing ideas into images and then into story. Layer upon layer, painted surface upon painted surface. Story develops over time, enriched by details and nuance as it begins to take on a ‘life’ of its own… In this workshop we will be working together to better understand how to construct story and find ways to express the big ideas that are found in this ‘Aina Aloha mural installation. They come from ideas that resonate through color and line, created visions that express who we are, and what’s important to us. The following outcomes will be addressed:

**Learning Outcome #1:** Participants will integrate visual art and the writing process to enhance student creative writing ability utilizing images;

**Learning Outcome #2:** Learn how to connect art forms to other subject areas; i.e. history and language arts;

**Learning Outcome #3:** Deepen the participant’s knowledge of Hawaiian culture & history through the language of visual art as a rich vehicle for storytelling.

We will also introduce the process of how a piece of visual art is created as the following steps discussed will include; Imagining, frontloading, researching, pre-arting (sketching), and processing as artists typically do.

In this kind of workshop format, it’s important to build and affirm old and new relationships, cultivate and honor each participant’s talents, and set protocols and parameters to work through difficulties that may arise, whether individually or as a team. Our work together can be deeply meaningful, rich and compelling because the ‘ike(wisdom) of this workshop will invite shared ideas, and collective brainstorming. There is no one, best way to do small or large work with the time constraint of a 3 hour workshop window, so come with an open and agile mind!

Collaboration through the ideation phase is helpful to all involved, as we are working to build and integrate the experience of being creative, not through a competitive model but one that honors ideas and talents of everyone involved. The life changing process of “we”- what we can do in shared conversation, collaboration, in relationship has the potential to become transformational and profound. This working together centers on inspired design, insight and courage to step out into the uncertainty of the new, into conversations propelled by color, line, composition and context that compels all involved to lean in and listen more carefully to one another, committing to every brush stroke, and intuition.

Because our images will be directed by the ‘Aina Aloha mural itself, the imagery will already be full of kaona, layered meaning and visual metaphor. Our work will be to find and identify those mini-stories that can be found within and further expand on our understanding and or curiosity. Leading and following, questioning and working-together. What we will be able to create in this learning community speaks about processes that can be developed and embraced in the classroom to move students through work into realms of deep cooperation.
and channeling of diverse energies. At its core visual art making is about story telling, about movement through ideas, about faith and trust in the process of discovery, and about the capacity to see beyond sketches and ideas to completed images.