

CEO LOUNGE
Honolulu's Executive Lounge
434 Piikoi Street, Open 1pm-2am, Phone (808)596-0006

YOU WORK HARD, COME UNWIND & RELAX!

- Private Rooms
- Karaoke
- Catering
- Video Teleconferencing
- Happy Hour 1-7pm
- Luxury Liquor & Wine
- Home Delivery Available

Other editions: Mobile | E-news alerts | RSS | Twitter Find it: Site Map | Coupons | Weekly Deals | Apartments | Dating | Jobs | Cars | Real estate | Classified ads | Subscribe

honoluluadvertiser.com

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Find what you are looking for ...

Search

Sponsored By:

momslike.com

HOME LOCAL NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS MY ADVERTISER ISLAND LIFE TGIF OPINION MULTIMEDIA BLOGS/FORUMS CLASSIFIED ADS HELP

 [Comment, blog & share photos](#)
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)

HAWAII'S **Complete** SOURCE

ISLAND LIFE

Posted on: Sunday, February 14, 2010

Artist's love affair with Isles dates back 56 years

• [Art calendar](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#) [Share](#)

By Lynn Cook
Special to The Advertiser

Inside the United Chinese Society building on King Street, a grand, 10-foot high, 15-foot-wide mural commemorates the first three generations of the Chinese in Hawai'i. A real fresco, with pigments painted into wet plaster, it is done in the manner of the old masters.



Beverly Willis' 1954 fresco commemorates three generations of Chinese in Hawai'i. Tomorrow the artist will be honored by the United Chinese Society.

Wanda Bubriski photo

The imagery is more than 55 years old, commissioned in 1954 as the building was nearing completion. Until about a year ago, the name of the artist who made it had been forgotten, says society president Ginny Young.

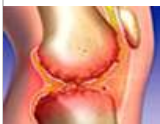
"For a time, the area was used for large storage. I came into office as they were clearing the space," Young said. "I took one look and started searching for information."

The answer came to Young instead, when artist Beverly Willis stopped by one day to see the mural she had completed decades ago. Young was away, but Willis left her card. Young immediately made contact and started a process to honor the artist and install a plaque to commemorate the work.

Young says sometimes you are looking for one fact and suddenly you find yourself surrounded by stories, each one more amazing than the next.

"Learning about Beverly Willis is a look into a picture book of art and architecture in the country, mixed with snapshots of Hawai'i, circa 1955," Young said. "We have found a multitude of treasures, not just for the society, but for all of us."

Ads by **Adblade**™



How to Stop Joint Pain!
Suffering with joint pain? Click here. Shocking joint relief discovery by Cambridge, MA researchers... [Learn more](#)



Mortgage APRs Hit 3.62%
Only 85,000 homeowners have taken advantage of Obama's refinance plan. Calculate new payment. [Learn more](#)



Homeowners Fail to Refi
Only 85,000 homeowners have taken advantage of Obama's refinance plan. Calculate new payment. [Learn more](#)



'My Wrinkles Melted Away'
See how a Mom combined 2 products & made her wrinkles vanish instantly... [Learn more](#)



Why Snoring Can Kill
Learn the secret to stop your snoring tonight... [Learn more](#)

MEET BEVERLY WILLIS

Mural dedication and reception

11 a.m. tomorrow

United Chinese Society, 42 N. King St.

536-4621

Lecture series: "Art and Architecture"; "Fabricating Identities in Architecture"; "History Matters"

6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Feb. 22

School of Architecture Auditorium, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa

956-3469

Learn More: www.beverlywillis.com; Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, www.bwaf.com

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

...ociety one of the most famous American woman architects, Willis came to Hawai'i in 1954 to study Chinese art history and philosophy with world-renowned scholar Gustav Ecke. While in Hawai'i, Willis also apprenticed with Jean Charlot, assisting the internationally acclaimed printmaker and fresco artist with the fresco at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa's Bachman Hall.

Willis was befriended by the wealthy Louise Dillingham, wife of influential Hawai'i businessman Walter Dillingham. "Jean Charlot told them I was a genius," Willis said, "so the Dillinghams set up an account for me for \$200 to help me as a student," adding, "they made introductions."

Willis got a part-time job retouching photographs at The Honolulu Advertiser. After graduating from UH, she opened Willis Atelier, a studio housed in a garage-style building on Pi'ikoi Street.

Willis designed the sand-cast walls of the Shell Bar at Kaiser's Hawaiian Village Hotel, made famous by "Hawaii Five-0." Henry J. Kaiser liked her work and asked her back to help with the landscaping.

As Willis tells it, only days before the hotel's opening, Kaiser set up a table in the center of the resort. "He made calls, and every nursery on the island brought samples," Willis recalled. "I pointed to this and that, picking fully grown trees and leaf colors like I would paint a mural. They were planted, and the resort opened the next day."

Louise Dillingham, trustee of the Bishop Museum, suggested Willis take on filling three domed windows in the museum's Hawaiian Hall, closed in 1956 to protect the Kahili Room from light. Willis spent months scouring beaches and the pali for volcanic stone, then spent three weeks laying the stone in a pattern called Ko'olau. High on her workman's ladder, she became an attraction to visitors, who had never seen a woman stonemason.

In 1958, Willis left the Islands to open offices in San Francisco, notably designing the Union Street stores (1965) and the San Francisco Ballet building (1983). Adding offices in Manhattan and projects across the entire U.S., her list of accomplishments and awards in architecture runs for many pages. She set standards high and has broken many barriers for women architects.

Tomorrow, she will be honored by the United Chinese Society. This week at UH-Mānoa, she will talk of her Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation and screen her documentary film, "A Girl is a Fellow Here — 100 Women Architects in the Studio of Frank Lloyd Wright."

Willis is looking forward to connecting the public with her Hawaiian art and with the Confucian saying in her United Chinese Society mural: "When drinking the water, always remember the source."



More Island Life headlines

[Stepping out in the right direction](#)

[Vatican reveals top music picks](#)

[Advice straight from the heart](#)

[From the HIP](#)

Entertainment alerts



Enter cell phone number to get entertainment text messages:

() -

Message and data rates may apply. To opt out, text STOP to 4INFO (44636). For more information, text HELP to 4INFO (44636). Contact your carrier for more details.

[Sign up for more alerts »](#)

ADS BY PULSE 360

[Get Listed Here](#)

Honolulu Refinance at 4.25% FIXED!

No hidden fees! (4.4% APR) Get 4 FREE Quotes!
No SSN reqd.

www.LendGo.com

New Financial Aid Options for College

If you make less than \$45,000/year, you may qualify for a Pell Grant.

www.ClassesUSA.com

Obama Wants You Educated!

Get your degree online. Obama has set up over \$30 Billion in grants.

obamaseducationplan.org

HonoluluAdvertiser.com welcomes comments from readers. Please be advised that comments deemed to be vulgar, racist, spam or personal attacks will be deleted. Users are blocked after repeated violations of our posting guidelines.

Comments >>

Be the first to share your thoughts on this story.

Contextual linking provided by Topix

National Partners: [Apartments.com](#) [Cars.com](#) [CareerBuilder.com](#) [Homefinder.com](#) [ShopLocal.com](#) [Metromix.com](#) [eHarmony.com](#) [4info](#) [USA Weekend](#)

Local partners: [101 Things to Do](#) [Around Hawaii](#) [Hawaii.com](#) [HawaiiNewsNow](#) [Hawaiian105.com](#)

[Home](#) | [Local news](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [My Advertiser](#) | [Island Life](#) | [TGIF](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Blogs/Forums](#) | [Classified ads](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of service](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Contact us](#) | [About us](#) | [Work for us](#) | [Gannett Foundation](#) | [Subscribe](#)

©COPYRIGHT 2010 The Honolulu Advertiser. All rights reserved.

1000 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813-2099

