

LONG ON **Art...**

Margotto Serves Up A Full Sensory Experience

By MaryAnne Long

We have heard much about pairing food and wine, but restaurant owner Kazutomo Robert Hori, a former Japanese entrepreneur and champion car racer, has now paired fine art and food (mainly the best truffles money can buy) at Margotto Hawai'i at 514 Pi'ikoi St.

Nine years ago, Hori served truffle dishes to his friends at his residence in Japan. Seeing the popularity of those dinners, he made a handshake deal with world-renowned chef Hiroyuki Kanda to open truffle-centric restaurants.

But Hori wanted to serve more than just food. He wanted a full sensory experience for his fine-dining establishment. Fine art was to be included as a focal point. He found the perfect artistic pairing for his food when he was introduced to the work of first-generation Samoan-American artist Saumolia Puapuga.

"Saumolia's *Horizon* series caught my eye," says Hori. "The meeting of sky and the water impressed me. I wanted our new restaurant to reflect island culture. His art would bring people to the ocean indoors."

The main dining room features several large paintings.

"I chose to do large Hawai'i-inspired paintings in the main room for their visual impact," explains Saumolia. "But the soft sea-sky colors do not make them intrusive



Fine art by Saumolia Puapuga grace the walls in the main dining room at Margotto Hawai'i. PHOTO COURTESY SAUMOLIA PUAPUGA

while dining and complement the food well."

In one private dining room, the decor and table settings reflect Saumolia's *Piniki*, a 60-by-40-inch mixed-media canvas painting that honors his grandmother's master mat-weaving skills.

Even the dishes themselves have an artistic presentation. But, truffles and art are not the only things being focused on during these unique meals. Wine or champagne and classical music are also carefully matched to individual courses.

Hori enjoys telling the story of the hunt for this gastronomic specialty.

"Each truffle is individually located through its unique scent, sniffed by a trained dog in the care of a professional truffle hunter," he says. "An interesting point is that

truffles were once hunted by pigs, until hunters realized that pigs loved them too."

In addition to Margotto Hawai'i, Saumolia's 100-piece 8-by-10-inch *Hau'ula Horizons* series, along with some of his larger pieces, will be on display/sale at Pictures Plus in Kaka'ako through December (opening reception is 4-7 p.m. Dec. 9).

"My *Hau'ula Horizon* series attests to the influence of nature, its patterns and colors, on my work," says Saumolia. "The horizon has been a recurring and inspirational theme: It is a peaceful, inspiring, unattainable place where the sun and eyes meet and my inner spirit feels most complete."

Follow Saumolia online at artybysaumolia.com, or on Facebook and Instagram (@artybysaumolia).



The presentation of the truffle dishes at Margotto Hawai'i reflect the feel of the fine art on the walls. MARYANNE LONG PHOTO

MaryAnne Long is an artist, art instructor, art collector and curator. Contact her at malong@hawaii.rr.com or longlostart.weebly.com.



Kazutomo Robert Hori, owner of Margotto Hawai'i, with champagne selections. PHOTO COURTESY KAZUTOMO ROBERT HORI



Saumolia Puapuga with *At Twilight*, a 40-by-30-inch oil painting on display at Margotto Hawai'i. MARYANNE LONG PHOTO

Are You Embarrassed By Your Teeth?

- ✓ Do you feel hopeless and frustrated about your broken, missing and decayed teeth?
- ✓ Do you hyperventilate at the thought of dental care? ✓ Are you looking for a dental home to restore trust?



"I love my new smile"

Yes, You Can Have A Beautiful Smile!

Did you know that the quality of your smile has a more direct effect on your personal and business relationships than any part of your appearance? In fact 88% of people say they always remember someone with an attractive smile. Not only that, 75% agree an unattractive smile can hurt a person's chances for financial success.

How You Can Have the White, Straight, Attractive Smile You've Always Dreamed Of!

If you are frustrated with your smile or simply want to change, then come in for a FREE Smile Makeover Consultation and New Patient Exam. Simply call (808)206-7331 now and be one of the first 12 people to call.

Ariel Rapoza of Waianae says: "I have never and I mean never had such an awesome experience with a dentist the way I have with you. The care and concern you give to your patients is sincerely given with a loving heart. How you treat your patients at each visit is always with such great care. Though you've seen the neglect, you never judged me or my situation but instead welcomed me with open arms and leaving no worries. This is something to smile about and you better believe I do."

9 Reasons Why You'll Love Our Office

1. No guilt dental office. We never scold. We Listen.
2. Free consultation on anything. No obligation, no hassle, no charge.
3. Pain free dental care. Soft touch dentistry. Sleep dentistry available. wake up to a beautiful smile.
4. Same day emergency care.
5. Affordable veneers. Invisible braces. No charge for records.
6. Implants at 1/2 price.
7. Dentistry for diabetics. For you or loved ones.
8. Many ways to pay.
9. Free report: "A Consumer's Guide To Choosing The Right Dentist For You."

Call (808)206-7331 to get your free report. No obligation!

A Downtown Dental Group
1139 Bethel Street • Hon • HI 96813

If lines are busy, please call again
(808)206-7331
request online appt. 24hrs/day at
www.bestdentisthonolulu.com

♦ **Free New Patient Exam**
♦ **Free X-rays**
♦ **Free Consultations**
♦ **Free 2nd Opinion** (\$200 value)
Limited to first 12 people
Offer expires in 2 weeks
Call now (808)206-7331