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...a journey, a collaboration, a creative collection, an exhibit by Leslie Kulolo'i'o and Carolynne Whitefeather

Translated, *Ho`omeheu* means "to follow a track, a trail, a trace." It can also mean "to make a track." Leslie Kulolo'i'o and Carolynne Whitefeather have honored the breadth of this definition by collaborating in the creation of visual and written records that pay tribute to indigenous and environmentally specific Hawaiian nature-based philosophy. Each has used their particular gifts to reveal contemporary usages and significances for these symbols and ideas through images and poetic dialogue.

The results of this collaboration are at the same time moving, energizing and gorgeous. The project exudes symbiosis of the best sort—sincere mutual admiration of two consummate artists expressing themselves with equal parts of passion and erudition. It was Les who asked Carolynne, an Indigenous American printmaker who has summered on Maui for over two decades, to design images for his "ohana talk-story." Carolynne is no stranger to collaboration with poets. For her MFA Midway Exhibition, she enlisted poet Jennifer Rane Hancock-Schell to create individual poems in response to 24 serigraphs based on the nature and history-based imagery of Carolynne's home area. To an extent, the relationship with Les is reversed, but it follows the patterns of childhood learning that both artists describe of "following to listen, observe, and wonder to understand." (*Carolynne Whitefeather, Artist's Statement, Ho`omeheu Exhibition, 2003.*) Indeed, the installation invites us to embark on our own *ho`omeheu* with these masters as our guides.

Les's objectives for the project were prodigious:

Hopefully, moment-by moment, *ho`omeheu*
will allow and exhaust my written words
as a contribution to the lessons for my future
grandchildren and their children;

as well as to the master students of the land
(*Les Kulolo'i'o, `ano`ai, Ho`omeheu Exhibition*)

Carolynne embraced the opportunity to work with her friend:

There is a thrilling risk in going to the edge, a great challenge to understand meanings, interpret essence and explore materials and processes as capable of expressing another's meaning and intentions. There is also an excitement in the challenge of social, personal and intercultural relationships.

(*Carolynne Whitefeather, Artist's Statement, Ho`omeheu Exhibition*)

Carolynne begins the storyline...

"Les asked me to design images for his ohana talk-story history -- the way I designed my home area's nature and history-based images"

From the *Growing Forward* Collection, *Matriarchal Trajectories* inspired this collaboration and exhibit representing the art and artistic heritage of the visual artist as it evoked her friend Les, the spoken word artist. Both hold a deeply codified visual language expressed as individuals in their own way.

Matriarchal Trajectories dialogue and codification reads from bottom to top, as from past to infinity, and seeks to reach out and bring together its earthen and celestial points of origin. Exacting details transition and merge with abstracted representations of knowledge and understanding. Sophisticated symbols and line images in stone, ceramic, shell, copper, and wood from the Moundbuilders of the American Southeast served as material culture while they guided protocols.

Patriarchal Pathways in the Maui of the far-distanced American west give an image to both lines of heritage for Les. The long-standing symbols in rock and paint became new symbols for our collaboration, relationship, and future generations. Renewal and New as markers of Identity place his creative voice of heritage and personal into his long line of culture as if small footprints walking in sync with the greater.