

Mary Faustine

An artist that puts the Aloha into Arf and Maui into Meow.



Diggin' That Doggy Rock

Here we explore the curious and unusual world of Mary Faustine. Mary's work is mostly landscapes and flora that reflect the colour and beauty of her adopted home, the Hawaiian island of Maui. It was her aloha wearing dogs and mumu-clad cats that caught publisher and Hawaii-phile, Phil Tripp. Here Mary shares a little insight into her art and background. We hope her art gives our readers young and old a chuckle and trip into a tropical time zone.



Who Let the Dogs Out



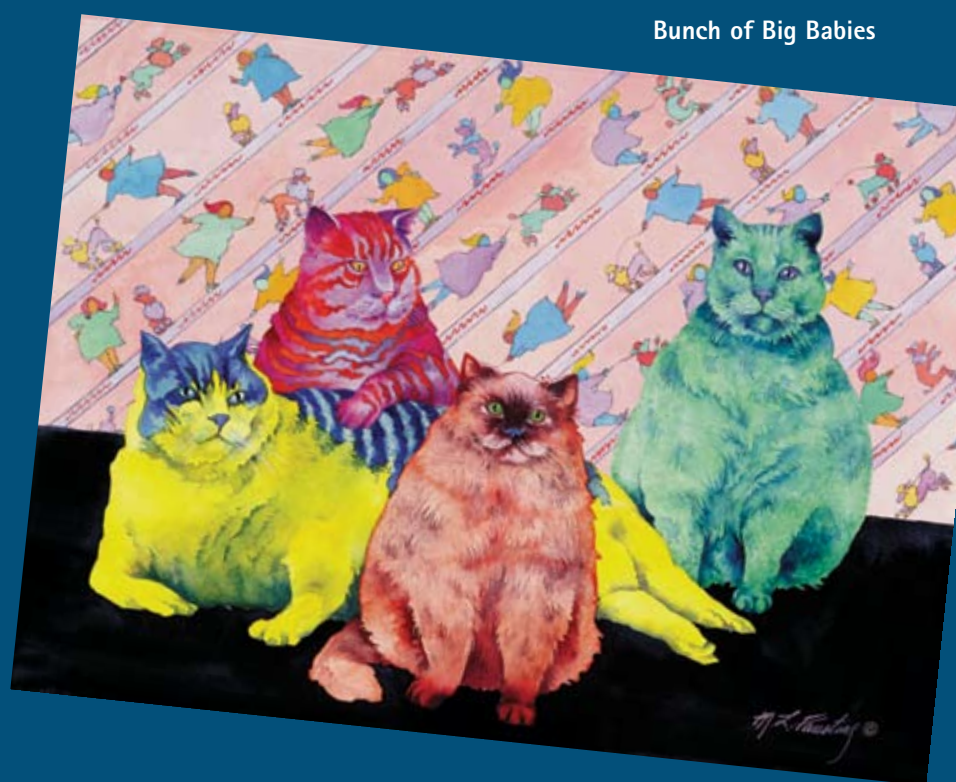
Beach Boys

I came to Maui in the mid 1970s on my honeymoon, having recently graduated from art school. My ex husband and I shipped over our VW camper, ready for exciting new adventures. Maui was sparsely populated and undeveloped at that time and the focus was on nature and spirit. It was like visiting Heaven. Life with the camper and the ex husband fell apart within a couple of years. This was the beginning of a long period of intense personal and spiritual growth that contributed to the artist I am today.

Over time I remarried and had three daughters. We struggled financially as most young families do and I felt stretched thin with responsibilities. When my daughters brought our first cat home I was apprehensive, but of course fell madly deeply in love! Our family has been deeply rewarded with love from our animals. How often do your pets make you laugh with their silly antics or quietly comfort you in difficult times? People who feel passionately about animals have most likely been healed by their love. They are sacred. I hope to convey through my art the idea that animals have souls and personalities and love as well as their need to be active members of the family. They are social creatures, just like humans. If a person is reading this magazine, most likely they know better than to disregard the spirit of an animal. It is the unaware people who might see my art on greeting cards that I hope to reach. By portraying animals in a soulful joyful way, perhaps I can raise their consciousness. I make sure that some of the animals in my paintings are looking the viewer in the eye. Maui has been my true home for all of my adult life.

My family and I moved back to the U.S. mainland three times thinking it was better for our careers and our children. But each time we missed the clean, healthy way of life on Maui. The Hawaiian culture is based on sharing, trust, and respect for nature. I feel very fortunate to live here, my heart literally sings every time I step outside. There is beauty everywhere. Of course I must try to capture it and celebrate it through my art. I have recently started painting in oils after using watercolors for many years. It feels like I am having an affair! The richness of the oil paint pulls you in and is completely mesmerising. When I initially started painting when the children were small, one of my fears is that I would love painting more than my family and I would neglect my children. Working with watercolors was a bit boring but they allowed me to keep my passions in check. Now that my girls have flown from the nest I am allowing myself to drown in creative richness. Rather than having a mid life crisis, I am having a mid life revival!

www.faustinemaui.com



Bunch of Big Babies