



Kiersten Stein

Kiersten Stein has had a long and successful career as a commercial photographer, advertiser and event coordinator. She co-founded her own company, Unions in Paradise LLC, an event-planning service in Hawaii. But being raised in a family of artisans nurtured a creative side, which Stein has been too shy to show the world until recently. Now she's compiling 26 years of work, ranging from writing and illustration to painting and photography.

"I've always been very artistic," she says. "I really had no choice. It was in my blood, and it was all around me."

She was getting burned out working in the service industry, and that compelled her to emerge as an artist.

"I make money for other people," she says of her time with the advertising company that she founded at 16. "I conceptualize for other people. My creativity is for other people. So I needed to come to a place where I was giving back to myself."

Her first two series as an emerging artist, "Mosaics" and "Quilts," expressed her views on the intricacies of life. Her favorite subjects are the flora and fauna of Maui, and her patterns are inspired by the quilting she did with her grandmother. Her work brings details of life to



the viewer and has inspired a perceptive change among her gallery's visitors.

Her amazing photographs display vibrant color up close and personal using a macro/wide-angle technique. Stein prefers to shoot her subjects in natural light, without any enhancements. If a breeze blows a feather out of focus, she allows it to happen, creating an amazing image of motion.

"I can spend five hours shooting one flower. No joke," she says.

Her other series, "Water Garden," also brings the haziness of coral reefs into colorful clarity and gives her work a surreal, almost alien feeling.

"I like to play with depth of field," Stein says. "So everything does not have to be crisp, because everything in life is not crisp."

