



DRICKE ISSAMATRO

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- CRAFT/PROFESSION

Dricke ISSAMATRO, who was born and lives in Lifou, is a sculptor in wood. He creates carvings inspired by traditional Kanak art, and uses only local woods: sandalwood, rosewood, gaïac and tamanu. He decorates his superb totems with stylised faces, floral patterns, turtles, fish and lizards.



- BACKGROUND

Dricke worked as a farmer and later a pastry chef before deciding, three years ago, to devote himself full time to sculpture in wood. Like most of Lifou's woodcarvers, Dricke is completely self-taught and learned his craft by watching other artisans at work. He meets up with other island woodcarvers at Lifou fairs and festivities like the Sandalwood Fair, ideal opportunities to catch up and share ideas, skills and methods of work. Dricke is now a highly skilled sculptor in wood and is proud to earn his living from his beloved craft.



- INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Dricke follows his inspiration and creates sculptures of every size in the workshop adjoining his home. He also does a lot of work on commission. However, the lush forests near his home remain his key source of inspiration.