



Isabelle STARON-TUTUGORO



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• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Isabelle STARON-TUTUGORO is a painter and engraver. Her work (paintings, engravings...) is inspired by Oceanian symbols and motifs and gives vibrant colour to the lives and stories of Pacific island families.



Isabelle uses acrylics and mixed media techniques to explore and give eloquent expression to Pacific island cultures. Over the last twenty-two years, she has travelled to every corner of New Caledonia and further afield to Western Samoa, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Tasmania and Australia, Vanuatu and remote and mysterious Easter Island.



• BACKGROUND

Isabelle is a self-taught artist; she was only 15 when she had her first solo show in the village where she was born near Lyon. When she discovered New Caledonia in 1986, she fell in love with the glowing colours and light. In 1996, she decided to settle for good in Poindimié in the North Province, where she set up her company “Bleu Citron”.



Since 2001, she has divided her work as an artist between New Zealand and New Caledonia. Her work is frequently featured in local and international exhibitions.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

The designs and patterns Isabelle uses in her contemporary paintings, woodcuts and linocuts are inspired by ancient rock carvings from the Nambai Valley, the ancestral land of her husband's family. She loves telling stories through her paintings and engravings.

New Caledonia's landscapes play a key role in Isabelle's choice of colours, symphonies of warm hues, orange, red and ochre, evoking the intense tints of the land, and brilliant shades of blue and turquoise reflecting the luminous beauty of the lagoon.

She draws ever-fresh inspiration from Kanak bamboo engravings, Oceanian bark cloths and Lapita pottery.