



# Noémie TIAOU



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## • CRAFT/PROFESSION

Noémie TIAOU sculpts in wood. She loves her craft and the freedom it gives her to express her creativity and transform her customers' desires into reality. Her greatest joy is their pleasure in seeing what she has created for them.

Noémie is eager to pass on her knowledge and skills and gives lessons to adults and young people. An experience as rewarding for her as it is for her students.

## • BACKGROUND

Wood sculpture is a "family" art form, a passion passed on to Noémie by her Ouvéa born father and Corsican mother. Noémie and her brothers and sisters grew up surrounded by the tools and traditions of woodcarving and learned the craft at an early age. "In our family, everyone sculpts in wood".

She learned to carve by making little traditional wooden huts for tourists, a simple design which taught her how to use various woodcarving tools.

The Tiaou family are key figures on the local wood art scene, creating and exhibiting all kinds of sculptures. Along with her brother,

Noémie recently created a sculpture displayed in the Médipôle hospital complex gardens.

## • INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Noémie works in harmony with the spirit of the wood, enhancing its natural beauty. Her favourite wood is gaïac, known for its subtle hues. She works with delicate precision, creating sculptures representing masks, totems, traditional doorposts and rooftop totems, each piece unique, unusual and highly detailed.

Noémie draws her inspiration from Kanak cultural traditions and New Caledonia's plants and wildlife. The sea is a favourite theme: for example, she will work ornamental details such as a nautilus, corals, sea anemones, a conch shell, a sea turtle, a manta ray or a whale into a totem representing a mourner's mask.

Noémie is always delighted to explore new themes whenever she receives a commission to create a new work.

She is very proud of the sculpture she created for the Congress of New Caledonia; it is in the form of a wave with a nautilus and symbolises the protection of the lagoon.