



• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Delphine TANTI creates pictures from sand, embellished by nautilus shells, tiny wooden or ceramic sculptures and a variety of decorative elements endemic to New Caledonia.



Her craft blends artistic exploration with carpentry and glazing skills. She hand cuts the glass and strips of local wood she uses to make her frames. Delphine also dyes her sand to create various hues. In fact, she considers it a point of honour to do everything needed to complete her pictures entirely with her own hands.



Delphine has also become skilled in ceramics and designs pieces inspired by local wildlife species, including kagus, turtles and fish. She is keen to share and pass on her knowledge and gives pottery lessons in her studio.

• BACKGROUND

Delphine is self-taught; her love for things of beauty, especially made by hand, led her to develop and enhance her creative skills. Over the last 18 years, she has become a respected figure on New Caledonia's arts & crafts scene. Her "Studio de l'Art" company is often a partner



of choice in sports and cultural events, sought after to design and make trophies. Her creations are a favourite with tourists and are often presented by businesses to distinguished guests as official gifts.

She now devotes her talents to her two craft activities: ceramics and creating pictures allying endemic nautilus shells with New Caledonia's shifting sand, artworks which are her exclusive speciality.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Delphine works with nautilus shells, wood, ceramics and sand, combining them to create unusual and elegant compositions. The clever technique she uses to mount glass over her pictures means that differently hued sands move but stay separate and add dramatic emphasis to the New Caledonian shells, plants or wildlife.

Delphine continually draws fresh inspiration from the travels and work of her fellow artisans and artists. She constantly seeks new ideas which will give each new exhibition of her work an element of surprise. "If a time comes when I have nothing new to show, I'll call it a day" she says.