



## • CRAFT/PROFESSION

Tony PAGATELE is a woodcarver creating a wide range of crafted objects - from key holders to monumental wood sculptures, including outrigger canoes, traditional Kanak door posts, sports trophies and home ornaments.



Tony always shows respect for trees and the wounds they have suffered when he works on his carving, choosing wood from a range of tree species: niaouli, eucalyptus, kohu, kauri, beech, pine and gaïac. He works primarily with naturally fallen wood. The wood is first dried, then Tony cuts, planes and sands his chosen material before starting his carving. His creations are finished with wax or varnish.



## • BACKGROUND

Tony comes from an artistic family and, aged 20, met the man who was to become his mentor: Christian, a multi-talented artist who encouraged Tony to join him every day in the studio he shares with other artisans. At the time, Tony was working in catering; with



woodcarving, he discovered a whole new world. He was inspired by the creative work done by those around him, and forged friendships with them.

Later, he joined an association of woodcarvers, eagerly learning skills from the lessons given to the students. Tony finally began creating his own carvings, encouraged by advice from his friends.

## • INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

As a native of Futuna, Oceanian art is key to Tony's craft. Every single motif or form, even the smallest, represents and gives expression to a word or, sometimes, a story. Tony follows his instincts when working on his carvings, which often take shape from the movement of geometric forms flowing from his chisel...