

# Morinoue Laundry & Pool Hall

When Holualoa artist Hiroki Morinoue's grandmother, Mitsue Mizukami, purchased this property it included the residence in back which was the original Japanese Association Hall. It was built and opened in 1923 by the first generation of Japanese "Issei" volunteers with the vision of community builder, Dr. Saburo Hayashi, whose home and office were across the road.

Morinoue Laundry was established in 1942; and in 1950 the new building, which featured a pool hall, was built. Sakuichi Morinoue was known as the best pool player throughout the territory and many players came to challenge him ~ but lost and went home. The 1955 Buick out front in this photo shows times were good.

The pool hall was also a gathering place for the old timer coffee pickers during the off season.

Hiroki's mother had him most of the time while she was working at her shop. Since he was 3 years old he was given craft paper, which his mother used for wrapping laundry, to keep him busy with drawing. His art career began with Bob and Carol Rogers at the Kona Art Center in 1967.

Hiroki married Setsuko Watanabe and together they established the original Studio 7 and Gallery in November 1979 with the inaugural exhibition, "Images/Objects". It included works in various media by 30 Big Island artists.

Today, with the name changed to Studio 7 Fine Arts, the gallery is one of the oldest in the state and continues to create and promote contemporary fine arts in Kona.



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*Photo courtesy of Hiroki Morinoue*