

## ► KOWALKE: Artist opens show at reception tonight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5C

aesthetic practice nurtured over the last 28 years.

Kowalke's classical training in Renaissance style drawing continues to integrate with his innovative and bold use of new mediums. In these paintings the use of fabric dyes, pure pigments, and metallic dust create a rich surface alight with saturated color and optical flecks which can only be seen while witnessing the originals in person.

Also evident is Kowalke's exploration of composition and color acknowledging past modern masters such as Chagall, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Franz Marc and Milton Avery. Complementary color play, reductionist modeling of form and compositions referring to Japanese wood-block prints reveal Kowalke's homage to these modern masters.

The artist has a deep and committed relationship with the land and various cultures of Hawaii. Having grown up in Kailua, Oahu, he spent much of his time in the ocean and exploring the forests of the windward side. The natural beauty and melting-pot history of Hawaii is essential to his artwork.

Kowalke is committed to art, not only as a livelihood and personal journey, but as a tool for teaching children and uniting local communities, he said.

Five years ago, Kowalke and a board of trustees created a company called "Art In Sight," devoted to the integration of art, science



SPECIAL TO WEST HAWAII TODAY

Two participants in the "Art In Sight" program work on a sculpture of the ocean's many living creatures. Peter Kowalke, featured artist at the Harbor Gallery 2 in Kawaihae, helped found the "Art In Sight" program five years ago. The program brings together young students and community members who learn local ecology, history, culture, science and communication skills and create public works of art.

and health education.

"Art In Sight" has to this date completed five major art installations around the island of Hawaii. Young students and community members work together learning local ecology, history, culture, science and communication skills, as they create public works of art. Each project and its resulting artwork emphasize the island eco-

systems and a holistic psychology based in the belief of "interconnectedness."

A percentage of all sales from the "Hills and Horses" exhibit will benefit "Art In Sight's" education programs. More information about "Art In Sight," and pictures of various community projects is available at [www.artinsight.wordpress.com](http://www.artinsight.wordpress.com).

"Hills and Horses" will be

featured at Harbor Gallery 2 located below the Seafood Bar and next to the Kawaihae Harbor Grill in Kawaihae. For more information on this collection of paintings or other works by Kowalke, call him at 937-7556 or visit [www.artinsight.us](http://www.artinsight.us).

To contact Harbor Gallery 2, call Gunner or Elli Mench at 880-9100 or 882-1510 or [gunner@harborgallery.biz](mailto:gunner@harborgallery.biz).