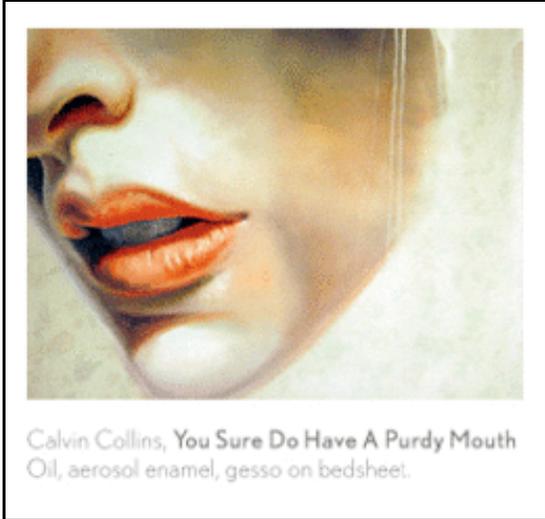


hawaiiromo

Inside the Academy: Security Guard Calvin Collins' Fabulous Show

Where: Oahu || Grouped in: Oahu Culture || Tagged: Art, Exhibits, Honolulu, Museums



There is a joke at the Honolulu Academy of Arts that the security guards are the most interesting people on staff. And like all jokes, there's a lot of truth to it. The men and women who make sure the museum's art and people are safe all have fascinating stories to tell. One of them is Calvin Collins, whose sensual paintings are on view in Nu'uanu Gallery's excellent "Encore Excellence" show. Collins, who has worked at the Academy for two years, got his BFA at the San Francisco Art Institute and earned his MFA at the University of Hawai'i. A relationship brought the Bay Area native to Honolulu, and he finds the experience of living here informs his work. "If I could use pathos and humor in the same sentence, that would apply to the works that are in this show," says Collins. He paints his figurative images, often of just a part of a face or a body ("I think fragmentation has a lot to do with my work") on used bed sheets. "Uh, that must symbolize something. But I think it's probably best to let the viewer come up with whatever they want, for better or worse." You can draw your own conclusions through March 29.

Honolulu Academy of Arts

900 S Beretania St, Honolulu, HI / (808) 532-8741

—LESAG, 03/26/08

Molokai Ranch to Close: No Place to Stay on the Friendly Isle in Hawaii

Where: Maui || Grouped in: Maui Hotels || Tagged: Molokai, News, Resorts

After losing money for several decades, the Molokai Ranch announced it would close, laying off 120 workers and effectively boosting the Friendly Isle's unemployment rate to 12%. The Ranch was one of the largest employers on the island. It also had run the only resort hotels on the island and maintained the island's only golf courses. From the Honolulu Advertiser article:

The struggling company, an affiliate of Hong Kong-based GuocoLeisure Ltd., said all its major operations will cease at the end of the month, including the 22-room Molokai Lodge, 40-unit Kaupoa Beach Village, the Kaluakoi Golf Course and other recreational activities. Also to be shuttered are Maunaloa's gas station, the Maunaloa tri-plex movie theater, cattle ranching and related maintenance work.

...continue reading

—ALEX, 03/25/08

A Decent Hotel in Hawaii for Under \$140 -- Podcast

Where: Statewide || **Grouped in:** Statewide Hotels || **Tagged:** Hotel Reviews, Travel Tips

My friend (and Hawaii rama blogger) Bruce does a nifty podcast on how to get cheap Hawaii hotels. Surprisingly, there are a decent number of totally decent cheap hotels for this price. And if you want to dip into condos, then \$140 per night actually can get you quite a deal in some places such as Napili on Maui (one of the nicest, least known beaches in the state). I love the Napili Kai (which is not that cheap) but there are others that are below the \$140 mark which are perfectly serviceable. On Kauai there are a good number of hotels and resorts below that price point in the Kapaa area on the so-called Coconut Coast (which lacks good swimming beaches). On Maui the Old Wailuku Inn often has rates that start just above the mark and are wonderful, particularly if you want to experience old style charm. So there are definitely plenty of options in that range.

—ALEX, 03/23/08

Honolulu Restaurants: Shokudo Review, New Wave Japanese

Where: Oahu || **Grouped in:** Oahu Food || **Tagged:** Foodie, Honolulu, Restaurants, Waikiki



I'm posting from Shokudo, a Japanese restaurant right next to Ala Moana Shopping Center and five minutes from Waikiki. This mobile post, typed on the go from my laptop whilst I polish off a platter of ahi tatami atop a bed of lettuce and a passel of grilled gyoza gurgles in my gut. Microsoft is

sponsoring this and other mobile posts I've been doing on Hawaiiirama. Thanks for underwriting my mobile lifestyle, Microsoft. On to the food. Mixed reviews. Upside? Beer is terrific - am quaffing a 27 oz bottle of Orion, a very light brew from the Land of the Rising Sun. Shokudo is a smart looking place with wrap-around booths for two that are perhaps designed for really small people. The lighting is a bit too bright but the place has a nice Devo-esque vibe. My seared ahi tatami salad was dynamite. My colleagues spinach salad less so. In short, stick to traditional Japanese and seafood and eschew the wilder stuff. But Shokudo is fun, relatively cheap and not a stodgy old-style local Japanese restaurant at all.



Map It: [1585 Kapiolani Blvd # 814 Honolulu, HI 96814](#)

Mobile Post Map

—ALEX, 03/22/08

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Alan Wong's Honolulu: Hawaii's Only James Beard Semi-Finalist in 2008

Where: [Maui](#) || **Grouped in:** [Maui Food](#) || **Tagged:** [Chefs](#), [Foodie](#), [Restaurants](#)

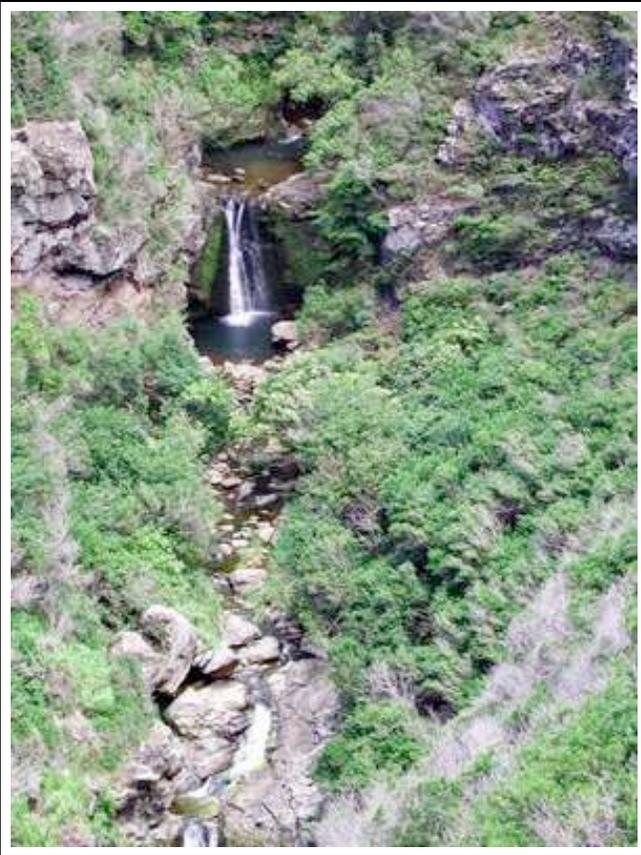
Word in the [blogosphere](#) is that [Alan Wong](#) is in the running for Outstanding Chef (*we had already reported as Best Chef in the Northwest -- We were wrong*). He won it in 1996. Would be nice to get a twofer. Mos def da place deserves mad props. You know how I feel [about his place](#). *Here is the correction Alan Wong's people sent to me. It's totally impossible to understand what it really means but I do understand I wrote something wrong and it's easier to post what they sent rather than parse it.*

Chef Alan is a semi-finalist for the Outstanding Chef category. The final list of (5) nominees in each of the (19) Restaurant and Chef awards categories across (10) different regions in the U.S., will be announced on Monday, March 24 during the nominations breakfast at the James Beard House in NYC. Thereafter, the winner among the (5) nominees in each category will be announced, and award medallions will be distributed at the James Beard Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception on Sunday, June 8 at Lincoln Center.

—ALEX, 03/21/08

Maui Hiking: Lower Makamaka'ole Valley

Where: Maui || Grouped in: Maui Nature || Tagged: Hiking, Waterfalls, West Maui



John Fischer from About.com gives a nice write up of a hike he took to the Lower Makamaka'ole Valley with Hike Maui. Nice waterfalls, interesting native plants, archaeological ruins -- sounds all good to me. Only bummer is the 90-minute ride from Napili. I am unclear why it would take that long to get to Waihee unless the tour company took the long route around via Kaanapali or do a scenic tour thing. I too have had good hikes with Hike Maui and this one sounds unreal -- gotta do it sometime soon.

—ALEX, 03/21/08

National Geographic Kalalau Article Is Dumb: Sez Kauai's Hiking Blogger

Where: Kauai || Grouped in: Kauai Nature || Tagged: Camping, Hiking, North Shore Of Kauai, Waterfalls

And I totally agree with him. This article is beyond predictable, beyond trite. I have no idea why National Geo would pay megabucks to get this sort of tripe but hey, it's a plum gig. Here's what Andy has to say.

"Starting with the obvious comparison to Shangri-La and giving only brief and inaccurate explanations of geology and Hawaiian culture, the article mostly centers around the writer's trek on the trail. And there, predictably, the difficulty is exaggerated, the valley residents are stereotyped, and the story of Koolau the leper is told once again. Then the writer goes on to say how the campground is trashed and the ambiance ruined by a boombox. Granted, the "vibe" of the place can change from year to year, and maybe the trash is far more noticeable than when I was there last, but it sounds like the author had unrealistic expectations....guess I just have to ask: if a journalist interviews a few people and then writes an article about their vacation, do they get to write the whole thing off as expenses?"

Answer to your question, Andy, is yes, they do!

—ALEX, 03/19/08

Hawaii Night Surfers: Waikiki by Moonlight

Where: Oahu || Grouped in: Oahu Nature || Tagged: Surfing, Waikiki, Watersports



This is a great article by [Derek Farrar](#) on what its like to go night surfing in Waikiki. I personally am a huge fan of night surfing, particularly in mellow waves like you find on the South Shore of Oahu (most of the time). The moon on the water, the music wafting out from the beachside bars, the stars in the sky all mix it up for a chicken-skin kinda experience. Sharks? Well, so far no one's been bit night surfing that I know of. If you are a rank beginner, this is probably not for you. No guards on duty and no one can see you flailing (unless you are wearing a glow stick). The images from this article by [Chris McDonough](#) are excellent. That's his image here, too, as well. (Full disclosure - Chris is a friend of mine).

—ALEX, 03/19/08

[1] [2](#) >>