

Paul Fujimoto

Wood Carving of "Pele"

The best known of the mid-century Hawaiian carvers. Paul Fujimoto did not sign his works though some that were sold by Blair's of Hawaii were signed for Paul by Blair employees, this is one of those works. The signature "Paul of Hawaii" has been engraved on the base.

In folklore, Pele travels throughout the islands, appearing to mankind as a beautiful young woman, or as an old woman, sometimes accompanied by a white dog. Refuse her requests and suffer her wrath, legends say. Among the people of the islands, Pele is revered and respected. The fire goddess landed first on Kaua'i, but every time she thrust her o'o (digging stick) into the earth to dig a pit for her home, Namakaokaha'i would flood the pits. Pele moved down the chain of islands in order of their geological formation, eventually landing on the Big Island where she resides today.

B.F.
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