

DAVID A. ULRICH

1912 N. 44th St., Seattle, Washington 968103 ❖ 808.721.2862 pacimage@maui.net

ARTIST STATEMENT

In 1970, I witnessed and documented the events surrounding the deaths of 4 students from National Guardsmen's bullets at Kent State. This had a profound impact on me and represented a turning point in my way of thinking. I began to view the arts as an alternative to the alienation and violence in our society and as a personal and collective means toward a renewal of humanistic values. This is the ultimate paradox of the creative process; that the deeper we strive to penetrate within ourselves, the more we reach a common ground of shared human concerns.

I am interested in the evocative power of the photographic medium to reveal the clash of cultural values evident in the modern world — to raise our collective level of awareness of the contradictions inherent in ourselves, and by extension, in the world itself. What attracts my attention is the vital tension between the first glance — the inherent beauty of photographic description— and the thoughtful gaze which reveals challenging social conditions.

My current photographic work explores the changing cultural and social landscape of post-colonial Hawai'i and of developing Pacific Rim nations. I have an abiding interest in the human interaction with the environment and how the land itself is shaped by its inhabitants. Can the arts assist in healing our attitudes towards each other and the planet? Can art reflect the profound contradiction between the needs of developing regions and the materialist lifestyle that constitutes the major intangible import of the West? These images reflect the growing contest of land tenure between traditional cultural values and the western models of economic development, military arrogation, and colonial power.