

## Jared Wickware - Statement/Bio - REIMAGINING HISTORY - 2023

*“The character of life in the line” S. W. Hayter*

The first engravers were prehistoric carvers in rock. Then came the goldsmiths and armorers of the Middle Ages. Engraving as original expression for printmaking achieved maturity within just two generations following its invention with the works of Andrea Mantegna (1431-1506), Martin Schongauer (1445-1495), Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) and others. However for the next 350 years the technique became primarily stereotyped as a means to reproduce paintings and other types of works. Emancipation came with the arrival and evolution of photomechanical processes, and artists like Joseph Hecht (1891-1951) and Stanley William Hayter (1901-1988) brought renewed creative vigor to the medium. The beauty and tension of the engraved line, driven as it is against a resistant copper, connects us physically with our cave-carving ancestors, and invites us to take up where the Renaissance left off.

Born in New York City, Jared Wickware is a printmaker who spent twenty-six years of his professional career as a Graphic Artist and Illustrator with the US Navy. He left the Navy in 2003 to focus on his artwork. Jared began engraving in the 1970s as a student at California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. An accomplished pen and ink illustrator, and an avid stamp collector in his youth, he took naturally to the engraving medium. Jared enjoys a reputation as one of very few and foremost artists practicing engraving today.

WALK IN THE RIGHT WAY (E holo 'ike ala pono) - (10 x 8 in.)

Engraved on copper for the Honolulu Printmakers' "Damien in Fine Print" portfolio to commemorate the canonization of Father Damien on October 11, 2009.

While we're accustomed to seeing Father Damien portrayed as old, diseased and disfigured, "Walk In The Right Way" expresses his inspiration, energy, and commitment. Damien's many hands illustrate the varied capacities in which he ministered to the exiles at Kalaupapa, as priest, doctor, builder, farmer, and grave-digger. The palm leaves held in his left hand symbolize martyrdom and the triumph of spirit over flesh. The coiled serpent reminds us of the medical "caduceus", derived from the original single-snake "Staff of Aesculapius". The many-armed Japanese goddess of Compassion and Mercy, *Kannon* (*Guanyin* in China), comes to mind. Those larger shadowy figures on the right are abandoned souls being raised up, and next to them are faces similar to actual persons exiled to Molokai mid-twentieth century. Father Damien encouraged musical activity; these musicians now celebrate his legacy.

The title refers to the last letter Damien wrote to his parents before leaving for Hawai'i. "FAREWELL dear parents, farewell. Be careful always to lead a good Christian life, and never let the slightest willful sin stain your soul. Walk in the right way. This is the last thing I ask of you; promise it to me, and I shall be without fear on your behalf."

The work has been strenuously researched through biographical readings as well as visiting the leper colony site on Molokai.