

KUKIBANA

the polynesian-peruvian art of the flower arrangement
by princess Kukicha

PHOTOS BY KEITH KOTICK, DESIGN BY MARIO



Flower arrangement is an ancient form, but one that can, and should be, incorporated into daily life. My Peruvian mother taught me, at a very young age, the beauty of the mountain blossoms. My Poynesian father opened my eyes to the line, shape, scale, color, form, & texture of volcanoes and lizards. The confluence of these experiences has led me to a lifelong interest in the decorative arts and female vocalists.

I take great pleasure in sharing with you a few of my most recent arrangements and I hope that you will discover for yourself the art, the pleasure, and the joy that is Kukibana...

HOW TO to create your own kukibana arrangement

A) Often, an arrangement will tell a story, such as this tender frolic in the flower patch by a bum and his companion frog. The base is a bauer vase (hot with collector-queens) filled with a dozen red



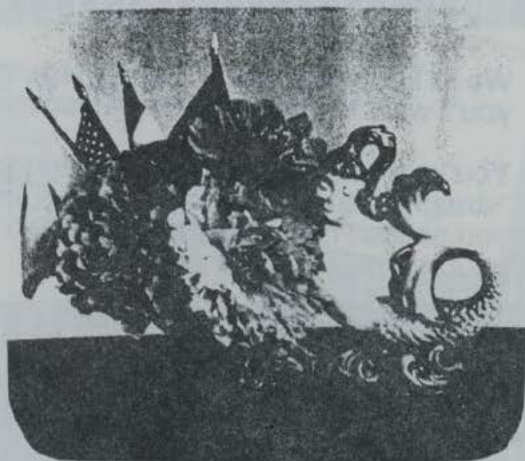
poppies (\$9.00 Cinderella Incorporated). Add to this a Big-Boy piggy bank figurine and a dog's frog squeaky toy. (Note: chopsticks hold the flourines in place).

examples of **KUKIBANA** created exclusively for my comrade
by princess kukicha

a) a boy & his frog



b) neptune's bounty



B) Flower arranging can be a spiritual exercise: making offerings to the gods on a regular basis is a thoughtful way to express thanks. This arrangement pays homage to the rich bounty of the oceans and to our heritage as sea creatures. Here, Mexican paper blossoms fill a mermaid's bowl. The miniature flags (\$1.50 each - United Nation's gift shop) represent the nations of the world who benefit from sea-faring trade.



c) fall fizzle!



C) This is a simple arrangement for novice Kukibana enthusiasts. I created this arrangement for a teenager's bedroom, but it could work well for any post-game get-together or for a cheerleader in the hospital. Start with Coke bottles in various sizes for an asymmetrical effect. Then add pom-pom pencils in various colors (69 cents at Lamston's) to signify flowers. Some inexpensive fat gift yarn can tie it altogether into a simple, whimsical, and cost effective creation!