

# Jean Charlot's "Nativity at the Ranch": Hawaiian and Mexican Religion



Caption: Jean Charlot, Nativity at the Ranch, fresco, 1953, 4 X 5 feet.  
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Presented by:

Dr. John Charlot

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When artist and writer Jean Charlot was invited to paint a small mural in a Kohala chapel, he encountered the special culture of Hawaiian ranching. In the nineteenth century, Mexican vaqueros had been brought to Kohala to teach cow-herding to Hawaiians, an occupation they found unusually compatible. A life-style was developed that blended Mexican and Hawaiian cultures, including music and dance. Both cultures are also deeply religious. Himself a descendant of a Mexican vaquero family, Charlot wanted to depict the spirit in which the two religions met and what they had to learn from each other.