PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ʻAi Pōhaku, Stone Eaters
Culturally-rooted exhibition featuring multi-media artworks by nearly forty Native Hawaiian artists has its first gallery opening on January 22, 2023.

(Honolulu, HI) – ʻAi Pōhaku, Stone Eaters is a large-scale, multi-site affirmation of creative resistance and persistence by Kanaka ʻŌiwi artists. Emerging collaboratively, this exhibition gathers new commissions, works-in-progress, and existing artworks by an intergenerational group of nearly 40 poets, painters, carvers, weavers, filmmakers, photographers, and musicians to help tell a story of Native Hawaiian contemporary art that began during the archipelago-wide cultural reawakening of the 1970’s. Seeds of resistance planted following the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy continue to bear fruit.

What: ʻAi Pōhaku, Stone Eaters  Contemporary expressions in diverse media by nearly 40 Native Hawaiian artists from across the Hawaiian Islands.

When: First gallery opening Sunday, January 22, from 2-4 pm, through March 26, 2023.

Where: UH Mānoa Art Gallery / ART Building / 2535 McCarthy Mall, Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96822
directions + where to park (free parking on Sundays)

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, noon – 4pm. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Holidays;
Weekly curator-led tours every Friday at 1 pm.

“Despite the abundance of our artistic expressions, it has been more than twenty years since a large-scale exhibition of Kānaka ʻŌiwi art was presented within the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) system,” according to ʻAi Pōhaku co-curators Drew Kahuʻāina Broderick, Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu, and Josh Tengan.

ʻʻAi Pōhaku, Stone Eaters addresses this exclusion of Kānaka worldviews from academia and an overall lack of institutional support for Kānaka art across the Islands. By advocating for Kānaka artists and culture bearers, this exhibition offers audiences an opportunity to form meaningful connections to our diverse work while ensuring that our stories of art are sustained in our ancestral homelands and abroad.”

Unfolding over eight months in 2023, ʻʻAi Pōhaku, Stone Eaters will welcome audiences into six interrelated college and university venues on Oʻahu. Public discussion and presentations will accompany each exhibition at venues including Gallery ʻIolani at Windward Community College, Koa Gallery, at Kapiʻolani Community College, Hōʻikeākea, at Leeward Community College and the East-West Center Gallery. Community programming and a forthcoming two-part publication could not have happened without the generous support of the participating venues, the Admiral Residency in Contemporary Pacific...
Art, Pu'uhonua Society, Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Independent Curators International.

The first public opening will take place at UH Mānoa's Art Gallery on Sunday, January 22, 2023 from 2-4 pm and will feature the works of over a dozen artists.

**EXHIBITION VENUES + DATES**

- The Art Gallery, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa: January 22 to March 26, 2023
- Koa Gallery, Kapi‘olani Community College: February 19 to August 13, 2023
- Commons Gallery, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa: March 5 to April 2, 2023
- Gallery 'Iolani, Windward Community College: March 31 to May 5, 2023
- East-West Center Gallery: April 30 to August 13, 2023
- Hō‘ikeākea, Leeward Community College: May 1 to August 25, 2023

**ARTIST LIST**

- Nālamakūkapō Ahsing
- Bernice Akamine
- Maile Andrade
- Pam Barton
- Meala Bishop
- Leimomi Lani
- Sean Kekamakupa'aikapono Ka'onohiokalani Lee Loy Browne
- Kahi Ching
- Kaili Chun
- Kau‘i Chun
- Herman Pi‘ikea Clark
- Kauka de Silva
- April Drexel
- Joy Lehuanani Enomoto
- Solomon Robert Nui Enos
- Bob Freitas
- Noah Harders
- Roen Hufford
- Puni Jackson
- Rocky Ka‘iouliokahihikolo‘Ehu Jensen
- ‘Īmaikalani Kalāhele
- Kama‘āina Kidz
- Kapulani Landgraf
- Al Kahekiliuila Lagunero
- Lehuaaukea
- Nanea Lum
- Marques Hanalei Marzan
- Charlton Kūpa‘a Hee
- Micah McDermott
Meleana Aluli Meyer
Ipō and Kūnani Nhipali
Harinani Orme
Carl F.K. Pao
Tiare Ribeaux
Abigail Romanchak
Charlie Sinclair
Keith Tallett
Cory Kamehanaokalā Holt Taum
Maikaʻi Tubbs
Kunane Wooton

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

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ABOUT PUʻUHONUA SOCIETY

Puʻuhonua Society creates opportunities for Native Hawaiian and Hawaiʻi-based artists and cultural practitioners to express themselves and engage with and impact audiences. We support artists and makers who serve as translators/mediators/amplifiers of social justice issues in the community. For information please visit www.puuhonua-society.org

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