

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Honolulu Biennial 2019 Announces Title and Approach, First List of Artists
and Appointment of Assistant Curator**

*Announced in Hong Kong at the launch of Asia Friends of Honolulu Biennial reception during Art
Basel*

Hong Kong, - March 30, 2018 Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF) announces the title for the second iteration of the Honolulu Biennial—*To Make Wrong / Right / Now*—drawn from a poem by participating *Kānaka Maoli* (Native Hawaiian) artist Imaikalani Kalahahele:

*The source
of
my origins
lie beneath my feet,*

*the breath
in my chest
originated
in Pō
the destiny
of my race
is
plunged into
my gut
and
infesting
my veins*

*with a new nationalism,
old spiritualism,
and a need
to make wrong
right
now.*

— Imaikalani Kalahahele, “Manifesto” from *Kalabele* (Honolulu: Kalamakū Press)

Curatorial Approach

The curatorial approach for *To Make Wrong / Right / Now* is related to Kalahahele's "Manifesto" and ideas pulled from the *'aha*—a single sennit cord made of many strands that can be gathered together with a series of knots to form a networked carrier. Thematic strands will be borne by the artists and bound together by a sense of genealogical reckoning (acknowledging the cord connecting past and future generations), indigenous knowledge, non-Western technologies of land use, creativity, materiality and awareness, decolonizing spirits, *mana wahine* (female empowerment), ancient histories and mythologies knotted with contemporary conditions, and reverence for *wahi pana* (storied places). The curatorial approach doesn't presume all of the *kaona* (meanings hidden out in the open) of *'aha*, but is the beginning of making a Biennial of, for and by this place by recognizing it as a unique opportunity to gather, remember, share, learn and move forward together in this place.

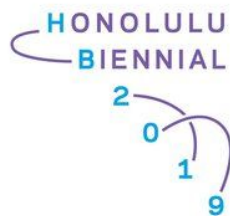
Over forty artists and artist collectives will respond to the approach by activating select sites on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. One-third of the artists will be from Hawai'i and two-thirds will be drawn from countries, autonomous regions, territories, kingdoms, and illegally-occupied, annexed, or unceded lands connected by the Pacific including: Aotearoa, Bougainville, Canada, China, Guåhan, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, the continental United States, and others.

First List of Artists

The Curators are pleased to announce the first list of participating artists for the second Honolulu Biennial:

Bernice Akamine (Kānaka Maoli/Japanese-American/Hawai'i)
Ei Arakawa (Japan)
Raymond Boisjoly (Haida/Canada)
Abraham Cruzvillegas (Mexico)
Imaikalani Kalahahele (Kānaka Maoli/Hawai'i)
Lee Kit (Hong Kong)
Kapulani Landgraf (Kānaka Maoli/Hawai'i)
Janet Lilo (Ngā Puhī/Niue/Samoa/Aotearoa)
Mata Aho Collective (Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangātira, Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi, Rangitāne ki Wairarapa/Aotearoa)
Marianne Nicolson (Musgamakw Dzawada'enuxw/Canada)
Paul Pfeiffer (United States/Philippines)
Rosanna Raymond, SaVAge K'lub (Samoa/Tuvalu/Aotearoa)
Natalie Robertson (Ngāti Porou/Clann Dhònnchaidh/Aotearoa)
Chiharu Shiota (Japan)
Kalisolaite 'Uhila (Tonga/Aotearoa)
Guan Xiao (China)

HONOLULU BIENNIAL FOUNDATION



YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES—Young-hae Chang/Marc Voge
(Korea/United States)

Appointment of Assistant Curator

HBF is also pleased to announce the appointment of Josh Tengan as Assistant Curator. Tengan joins Curators Nina Tonga and Scott Lawrimore. Tengan is a Honolulu-born and based curator and project manager in the visual arts. Since 2014, he has worked with local and Native Hawaiian artists, through the arts non-profit Pu‘uhonua Society, to deliver Hawai‘i’s largest annual thematic contemporary art exhibition, CONTACT. He holds a curatorial studies MA with Distinction from Newcastle University (UK) and a BA in Fine Art from Westmont College. As the Assistant Curator for the second edition of Honolulu Biennial, Tengan brings a deep understanding of Hawai‘i and its practitioners.

Running from March 8 - May 5, 2019 on O‘ahu, Lawrimore, Tengan and Tonga have expanded this multi-venue biennial to include sites on one of the neighbor islands, Hawai‘i. More information on the specific sites for Honolulu Biennial and the complete list of participating artists will be announced later this year.

About Honolulu Biennial Foundation

Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF) supports the local arts infrastructure with a global outreach by presenting Honolulu Biennial, a visual arts festival for Hawai‘i focused on exhibiting artists from the countries and cultures linked by the Pacific Ocean. Throughout the year, HBF serves the local community by presenting educational outreach programs, smaller scale exhibitions and professional development opportunities for the local arts community with its *Visions of the Future* initiative. To learn more visit: www.honolulubiennial.org

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