

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

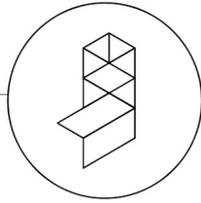
Hawai‘i Triennial Announces Title and Curatorial Focus for 2022

*Dr. Melissa Chiu Selects Dr. Miwako Tezuka and Drew Broderick
to Join Curatorial Team for “Pacific Century”*

(HONOLULU, September 2, 2020) — The Board of Directors of Hawai‘i Contemporary (formerly the Honolulu Biennial Foundation) announced today the full curatorial team for the Hawai‘i Triennial 2022 (HT22), Hawai‘i’s largest international contemporary art event. The curatorial team, led by Dr. Melissa Chiu, the director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C, is now joined by associate curators Dr. Miwako Tezuka and Drew Broderick. Each brings curatorial and academic expertise to the Triennial, which will be framed around the fluid concept of a “Pacific Century,” interweaving themes of history, place, and identity within the context of Hawai‘i’s unique location within the confluence of Asia-Pacific and Oceania. Preceding the Triennial, the curators will present a full curatorial précis at the inaugural Hawai‘i Contemporary Art Summit, a multi-day educational event scheduled for February 2021.

“We are absolutely thrilled to announce the curatorial team and a proposed vision for the Triennial that places Hawai‘i in a greater spotlight for contemporary art,” stated Katherine Don, acting executive director of Hawai‘i Contemporary. “Under the direction of Dr. Chiu, we welcome the well-informed input of Dr. Miwako Tezuka, a noted specialist on contemporary Asian art with focus on post-1945 Japan, and artist and emerging curator Drew Broderick, who has previously exhibited within the Honolulu Biennial 2017. The curators bring their own dynamic knowledge on the Pacific region, which will provide local and global audiences with a historically rich art perspective.”

Speaking about the Triennial Dr. Chiu stated: “This is a moment of great change, and we intend to take this as a starting point for the Hawai‘i Triennial. Through an exploration of the idea of the Pacific Century, we hope to take account of recent histories that are informing our present but perhaps, most importantly, re-configuring the future. A focus on the Asia-Pacific and how artists are responding to this time are at the heart of our curatorial approach for this important periodical exhibition. I am delighted to be joined by Miwako Tezuka and Drew Broderick, whose expertise will lend great weight to the curatorial theme.”



Dr. Tezuka remarked: “I am deeply inspired by Melissa’s vision and Drew’s knowledge and creative experience. It is my honor to be part of this team. From the curatorial perspective of a ‘Pacific Century,’ we are finding the weight of different histories and exploring the opportunities to illuminate it by new artist commissions and artworks set within various architectural settings across Honolulu. We are looking to activate several public sites and will be working closely with local communities and museums to create experiences that capture the zeitgeist of diverse and intricate conditions.”

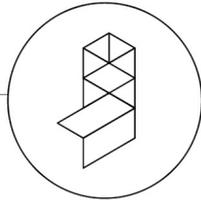
Broderick added: “It’s a privilege to be working alongside Miwako Tezuka, under the direction of Melissa Chiu, with support from the Hawai‘i Contemporary team. It has been meaningful to reflect on the Triennial’s internationally oriented themes as a Honolulu-based artist and curator guided by local and indigenous knowledge. I am committed to advancing stories of intergenerational resistance and interested in the micro and macro geopolitical shifts currently impacting communities, arts and otherwise, across Ka Pae‘āina o Hawai‘i, Moananuiākea.”

The inaugural Hawai‘i Contemporary Art Summit is scheduled to take place February 10–13, 2021. Designed as an education event taking place over several days, it will function as a meeting point for all of Hawai‘i and beyond, connecting artists, thinkers, scholars, cultural workers, students and young people and their families with art and ideas. The Summit is a thematic precursor to the Triennial, which is scheduled to place across various museums and public spaces throughout Honolulu, running from February 18–May 8, 2022.

Curators’ Biographical Notes

Dr. Melissa Chiu is a renowned international curator, who is currently director of Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. Among Chiu’s many professional accolades, including serving as museum director and senior vice president, Global Art Programs (2001–2014) at Asia Society in New York, she is recognized for realizing landmark exhibitions by Shirin Neshat, Robert Irwin, Yayoi Kusama, Charline von Heyl, Zhang Huan, Yoshitomo Nara, Sarah Sze, Michael Joo, Dinh Q. Lê, Ah Xian and Cai Guo-Qiang, and co-curating *One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now* (2006–8) and *Art and China’s Revolution* (2008). Chiu has authored and edited several books and catalogues on contemporary art, including *Contemporary Art in Asia: A Critical Reader* (MIT Press, 2010), and has lectured at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, the Museum of Modern Art, and other universities and museums.

Dr. Miwako Tezuka is associate director of Reversible Destiny Foundation, a progressive artist foundation in New York established by Arakawa and Madeline Gins. Previously, she held the positions of gallery director of Japan Society in New York (2012–15) and curator of Contemporary Art at Asia Society Museum in New York (2005–12). She has curated numerous exhibitions; on Maya Lin, Robert Indiana, Ikeda Manabu, Tenmyouya Hisashi, teamLab, Mariko Mori, U-Ram



Choe, Yang Fudong, Chen Chieh-jen, among many others. She also co-curated, with Melissa Chiu, the ground-breaking exhibition *Yoshitomo Nara: Nobody's Fool* (Asia Society Museum, 2010). Tezuka holds a doctorate in post-World War II Japanese art history from Columbia University, and is co-director of PoNJA-GenKon, a global online network of postwar Japanese art scholars and curators.

Drew Kahu‘āina Broderick is an artist, independent curator, and educator from Mōkapu, Kailua, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu. Currently, he serves as director of Koa Gallery at Kapi‘olani Community College. Recently, he completed an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College (2019). Previously, he worked in the Hawai‘i-based art collective PARADISE COVE (2015–2018), operated an artist-run venue SPF Projects (2012–2016), and co-founded an annual open-call, thematic exhibition, CONTACT (2014–2019), with community arts organizer Maile Meyer. Collaborative curatorial projects in development include *‘Ai Pōhaku* and *I OLA KANALOA*, with Josh Tengan (Assistant Curator HB19), and *Revisiting Kealakekua Bay, Reworking the Captain Cook Monument* as part of a hui of Hawai‘i-based artist practitioners.

About Hawai‘i Contemporary

Inspired by the unique histories of Hawai‘i, a gathering place for diverse peoples and ideas, Hawai‘i Contemporary connects communities from across our islands and regions united by the Pacific Ocean and beyond. As a collaborative art partner, we cultivate cultural alliances to showcase the Hawai‘i Triennial every three years and to celebrate contemporary art and ideas. The multi-site public exhibition is complemented by year-round public and education programs contributing to the local arts ecosystem and affirming our commitment to creating an accessible gateway for contemporary art in Hawai‘i nei.

Established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization in 2014, the Honolulu Biennial Foundation debuted the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 as a dedicated contemporary art platform in Hawai‘i. The successful biennials presented in 2017 and 2019 gained international recognition and respectively welcomed over 100,000 guests from Hawai‘i and the Pacific region, as well as visitors from around the world. In 2020, the organization announced the transformation of its signature event into a triennial format and was renamed Hawai‘i Contemporary. Looking to the future, Hawai‘i Contemporary continues to build upon this foundation to create inspirational and sustainable exchanges, connecting Hawai‘i and the Pacific with contemporary art.

For more information, please contact: press@hawaiicontemporary.org.

###