



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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'Ai 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) – *'Ai Pōhaku, Stone Eaters* is a large-scale, multi-site affirmation of creative resistance and persistence by Kānaka 'Ōiwi 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: *'Ai 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, Hawai'i 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 'Ōiwi art was presented within the University of Hawai'i (UH) system,” according to *'Ai Pōhaku* co-curators **Drew Kahu'āina Broderick**, **Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu**, and **Josh Tengan**.

“*'Ai 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, *'Ai Pōhaku, Stone Eaters* will welcome audiences into six interrelated college and university venues on O'ahu. Public discussion and presentations will accompany each exhibition at venues including Gallery 'Iolani at Windward Community College, Koa Gallery, at Kapi'olani Community College, Hō'ikeākea, 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

Nālamakūikapō 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
Roan Hufford
Puni Jackson
Rocky Ka‘iouiokahihikolo‘Ehu Jensen
‘Īmaikalani Kalāhele
Kama‘āina Kidz
Kapulani Landgraf
Al Kahekiliuila Lagunero
Lehuauakea
Nanea Lum
Marques Hanalei Marzan
Charlton Kūpa‘a Hee
Micah McDermott



Meleanna Aluli Meyer
Ipō and Kūnani Nihipali
Harinani Orme
Carl F.K. Pao
Tiare Ribeaux
Abigail Romanchak
Charlie Sinclair
Keith Tallett
Cory Kamehanaokalā Holt Taum
Maika'i Tubbs
Kunane Wooton

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

'Ai Pōhaku, Stone Eaters is a project of **Pu'uhonua Society** made possible with generous funding provided by the **Institute for Museum and Library Services, Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, Independent Curators International**. With additional support from the **Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts** and the **UH Mānoa Art Department Admiral Grant**.

ABOUT PU'UHONUA SOCIETY

Pu'uhonua Society creates opportunities for Native Hawaiian and Hawai'i-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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