



The Hawai'i Pacific University Art Gallery is pleased to announce its 2016 - 2017 exhibition schedule. The primary focus of the gallery is to showcase the work of artists who live and work in Hawai'i. HPU Gallery Curator, Sanit Khewhok, noted, "Our gallery program continues to draw the attention of artists and audiences alike. Annually we review more portfolios of work and are proud to continue scheduling paired artist exhibits this year to accommodate more artists. Our selection includes an exciting diversity of media and styles."

### **2016-2017 Hawai'i Pacific University Art Gallery Schedule**

#### **September 18 – November 11, 2016**

**Kit Cameron**

*By the Sea*

"This show concerns lighthearted glances at vacation beaches integrated with my interest in archetypes of sacred space. The edge between water and land suggests a connection to a spiritual reality overlaying our concrete world. The act of painting itself is an ecstatic experience and often I don't know what I am painting until later, when I discover narratives and symbols in the work."

**Jennifer Tosaki**

*Fulfillment*

A strong focus on art began in mid-life for Jennifer Tosaki. She credits her family for awakening her creative drive and desire to pursue something beyond the daily conventionality. Now she indulges in painting every chance she can. Jennifer's current work is a series of portraits of family and friends. She describes her artistic journey as a way to identify what she finds meaningful and fulfilling in life.

#### **November 20, 2016 – January 13, 2017**

**Debra Drexler**

*Chroma Current*

"From temporal compression to theories of quantum mechanics that question the sense of linear time, we do not perceive time the same way our ancestors did. Just as we are saturated by synthetic foods, we are saturated by synthetic awareness. Abstract painting is ancient. It is a return to the 'real.' I believe in the primacy of painting; painting is enough. Painting stands on its own. Abstraction takes us to a state of timelessness that is primal in its humanity, disconnecting us momentarily from the mediated 'now' of our electronic devices, and connecting us to a 'now' that gives us a glimpse of the infinite. My work is driven by an orientation toward an athletic painting process. The marks are made with the entire body, in choreography with the canvas. Working on the floor allows for gestural sweeps, applications of thin glazes as well as pooling of paint. The scale is human sized or larger, creating an expansive experience, immersing the viewer within the frame of the painting."

**Edina Fulop**

*Plant Portraits in Honolulu*

Since arriving last summer for her artist residency, Edina created a "semi-*plein air*" body of work resulting in a variety of pieces balancing between figurative and abstract. Regardless of the subject matter, be it a person, plant or location, her observation is one that seeks understanding. This is the only way in which she can depict each subject, reveling in the beauty of its complexity. Edina believes that every 'creature' has its own character whether it is alive or not. She is interested in giving the densest depiction of this very 'personality' with the same empathy towards any subject.

## **January 22 – March 10, 2017**

**Jane Chang Mi**

*Owhyhee*

The first visual representations of Owhyhee were made by English explorers of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Their drawings, prints and paintings captured the changing history as Hawaii yielded to Western ways of life, including the breaking of kapu. The exhibition Owhyhee re-imagines these images questioning the representations of the Western explorers, Hawaiian history, as well as our own prejudices and preconceptions. Trained as an ocean engineer, Jane Chang Mi considers land politics and postcolonial ecologies. Exploring the traditions and narratives associated with environment through her interdisciplinary and research-based work. She aims to express our contemporary relationship to nature and each other.

## **March 19 – April 28, 2017**

**HPU Annual ‘Ohana Exhibition**

An exhibition of artwork in various media by artists from the HPU community, including HPU’s talented students, faculty, and staff.

## **May 7 – June 30, 2017**

**Alison Beste**

*Light Pollution*

Light Pollution is an ongoing investigation into the ways in which human activity shapes the environment. The photographs expose luminous and eerie expanses of light and color often from the vantage point of Oahu’s famous coastline. Extending the camera’s shutter for one to ten minutes registers the island’s light pollution as radiant and mysterious color gradients. Light sources from buildings in Honolulu, private beach beams, and boat traffic reveal an infringing human presence. This is especially interesting in relation to Hawaii’s mythology as a pristine and untouched landscape. The photographs are simultaneously beautiful and haunting; by exposing the light’s ephemerality and ambient ability to shape nature, they also suggest the ways that humans influence and attempt to control their environment.

**Zoe Liu**

*Let ‘em Flee*

Zoe Liu’s work explores the roots of Hong Kong’s oppressive society, and how it impacts each new generation. *Let ‘em Flee!* is Liu’s ongoing series of mixed media drawings on paper that looks at social control in Hong Kong. Having grown up there Liu is intimately familiar with the consequences of score-oriented educational system and extreme parenting. Both value obedience, memorization and drilling rather than independent and analytical thinking. Many students in this high-pressure situation, as young as six years old, tragically choose to pursue freedom through suicide. Liu makes “Force-Fed” education system visually evident through images of children with buns in their mouths. The figures are rendered amidst layers of calligraphy drawn from common phrases of parental expectations and scoldings. The phrases “force-disappear” the figures through their insistence.

## **July 9 – September 8, 2017**

**Shingo Yamasaki**

*Talk Story*

In Hawai’i, storytelling is a common way for family, friends, and acquaintances to communicate. “Talk story” as it is told by many. There is a unique set of experiences while growing up in a “melting pot” of different people who converge throughout the islands. The narrative in art is nothing new and is also a form of storytelling. From centuries from art history, figurative painting, in the wake of post-war abstraction, human culture has brought storytellers into artistic practice. Stories are in a way how we make sense of the world, providing fragments of clues. Artists in Hawai’i are proposed to be brought together, to bring the art of storytelling practice into view. Narratives in a variety of forms and mediums are gathered, each with unique sensibilities and moments to be shared. The exhibition will include artists residing in Hawai’i, with the overarching theme of narrative work.

— — —

The Hawai’i Pacific University Art Gallery is located on HPU’s windward Hawai’i Loa campus, 45-045 Kamehameha Highway, in Kaneohe. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Parking and admission is free and the public is invited. For more information call 544-0228.