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Bishop Museum Welcomes Hawai‘i Triennial 2025

The state’s largest thematic exhibition of contemporary art will showcase nine artists in the Museum’s Castle Memorial Building, with discounted admission during Opening Weekend.

Honolulu, Hawai‘i — [Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, welcomes the Hawai‘i Triennial 2025 back to its Castle Memorial Building from Feb. 15 through May 4, 2025.

As part of its Opening Weekend celebration, Bishop Museum is offering discounted admission of \$15.00 for kama‘āina and military on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 15-16, 2025. In addition, Bishop Museum Members enjoy a special preview from 4-6 p.m. on Valentine’s Night, Friday, Feb. 14, 2025.

The Hawai‘i Triennial is the state’s largest thematic exhibition of contemporary art from Hawai‘i, the Pacific, and beyond. Every three years, Hawai‘i Contemporary presents the Triennial across museums, galleries, and outdoor and unconventional spaces, and offers a complementary program of public engagements. Curated by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Binna Choi, and Noelle Kahanu, this year’s Triennial theme, ALOHA NŌ, invites visitors to [re]consider their own notions and preconceptions of aloha.

As described by Hawai‘i Contemporary, the nine contemporary artists showcased at Bishop Museum’s exhibition have art practices with connections to cultural material and informed by archival collections, including those of the Museum. The intergenerational grouping of artists explores their personal and cultural relationships to land and colonized territories, offering visualizations of “home/land” and interpretations of defense.

“We’re honored to welcome the Hawai‘i Triennial back to Bishop Museum, and mahalo our partner, Hawai‘i Contemporary and their featured artists for HT25,” said Healoha Johnston, Bishop Museum director of Cultural Resources and curator for Hawai‘i and Pacific arts and culture. “The 2025 iteration brings large-scale contemporary art installations to the Museum, many consisting of familiar textures such as plant fibers, presented uniquely in the gallery in an unprecedented way.”

“Kapwani Kiwanga’s *Vestibule* and J.D. Nālamakūikapō Ahsing’s *‘Āinamoana* stretch sisal and hau respectively from floor to ceiling. Stephanie Syjuco repurposes Bishop Museum’s display cases to

contextualize her installation, *Blind Spot (Artifacts)*, while Tiare Ribeaux and John Pule draw upon materials found in Bishop Museum's Library & Archives to inform their work. Emily Karaka's mixed-media on canvas works, and video installations by Salote Tawale and Sione Faletau turn two-dimensional formats into three-dimensional experiences bringing a lot of depth to the exhibition. Brandy Nālani McDougall offers a concrete poem titled *Aloha Ka 'apuni/Revolutionary Aloha: Kealaikahiki* to comment on the present moment. Of all the Hawai'i-based artists, Brandy Nālani McDougall is the only artist Bishop Museum has presented work by in the past — and in those instances, in print and performance formats outside of the gallery — making this a dynamic exhibition that is entirely new to our visitors."

Healoha shared that contemporary art has always been a part of Bishop Museum's *kuleana* and galleries, noting several pieces in the Hawaiian Hall Complex; the murals installed throughout the Museum's campus; and, prior exhibitions such as *Corned Beef & Kalo*, *Project Banaba*, and *POW! WOW! The First Decade: From Hawai'i to the World*.

"Contemporary art plays an important role in continuing the Museum's sharing of Hawai'i and Pacific history, culture, and natural sciences through the lens of present-day artists," Healoha said.

A detailed description of the nine artists and their featured works is provided by Hawai'i Contemporary, below. News media are invited to an exclusive closed-door, pre-opening preview of the Hawai'i Triennial 2025 exhibition at Bishop Museum:

Media Preview of Hawai'i Triennial 2025

- Thursday, Feb. 13
- 1-4 p.m.
- Castle Memorial Buidling, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St.
- Interview opportunities with the exhibition curators, artists, and Bishop Museum representatives.
- Please RSVP with Lance Aquino via the email address noted at the top of this release.

For more information, please visit BishopMuseum.org/HT25. Bishop Museum expresses its appreciation for the John Chin Young Foundation and OUTRIGGER Resorts & Hotels for their support of this exhibition.

Featured Artists and Works (provided by Hawai'i Contemporary)

A large-scale, site-responsive architectural installation by Kapwani Kiwanga evokes the toxic economy of the plantation, rethinking ethnographic representations, which Stephanie Syjuco also interrogates by way of reworking their photographic and display technique. Sione Faletau and J.D. Nālamakūikapō Ahsing expand upon Pacific voyaging — the former offering newly interpreted kupesi (Tongan traditional pattern) based on a chant for sailing, and the latter using new techniques to make paper out of Hawaiian hau, creating a Kanaka cartography out of 'āina and moana materials. A new series of five paintings by Emily Karaka depicts passionate imaginaries of key Hawaiian mauna. Drawing inspiration from a series of books in the Museum's archive on the artist's native Niue, John Pule created a new large-scale painting while on O'ahu, which he will present alongside a booklet of collected poems. Salote Tawale and Tiare Ribeaux recount personal journeys and familial migrations in their respective film works. And artist and poet laureate Brandy Nālani McDougall offers a newly commissioned poem that explores aloha nō and the concept of Aloha Ka'apuni, or Revolutionary Aloha.

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About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum's mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration, celebration, and perpetuation of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the Museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world's premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content.

Bishop Museum's vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over 2 million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and 1 million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai'i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning 130 years.

Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits.

To learn more about the Museum's research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit [BishopMuseum.org](https://www.bishopmuseum.org), follow @BishopMuseum on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), become a fan of Bishop Museum on [Facebook](#), visit Bishop Museum's [YouTube](#) channel, or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Bishop Museum is proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, and welcomes applicants from the military, veterans, and those with disabilities. Learn about careers at Bishop Museum at [BishopMuseum.org/Careers](https://www.bishopmuseum.org/Careers) and on its [LinkedIn](#) page.

[Bishop Museum Press](#) is Hawai'i's oldest book publisher and one of the first scholarly publishers in the Western Hemisphere, and has published over 1,200 titles and distributed over 1 million books in 72 countries worldwide.

Past news releases can be viewed and downloaded at [BishopMuseum.org/NewsRoom](https://www.bishopmuseum.org/NewsRoom).