FIVE OAKS MUSEUM

DIS place

DISPLACE MODULE 1: :

THE OCEAN IS A BRIDGE

Introduction, Holokahiki, and artwork by Kia Takamori-Tihada

INTRODUCTION
THE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

MAP YOUR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

> What do you already know about Hawai`i? Think about geography, food, music, language, etc.
> What do you already know about Hawaiians in the Pacific Northwest?

A NOTE FROM THE CO-CURATORS

DISplace is an online exhibition at Five Oaks Museum. The co-curators of DISplace, Kanani Miyamoto and Lehuauakea, say: "Both of us are members of the large mixed-Native Hawaiian community that has found their way to the Pacific Northwest. This exhibition developed out of a goal to recover the connected histories of Hawai'i and the Pacific Northwest from pre-fur trade era up until present-day and rebuild the narrative through the voices of families and individual descendants today. We have woven pieces of our community's visual art, family stories, music, and food into the historical timeline."

> Why does it matter who curated this exhibition?
> Based on this quote and your prior knowledge, what are three questions you have that you hope to learn about through this exhibition?

Lehuauakea (left) and Kanani Miyamoto (right)

LANGUAGES ON THE ISLANDS AND THE MAINLAND

Hawai'i's pidgin developed on sugarcane plantations and is influenced by Portuguese, ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi, English and other languages. Chinuk Wawa, which is another form of pidgin spoken in the Pacific Northwest, was developed with the fur trade and is influenced by Chinook, Salish, English and other languages. "Dis place" is a Hawaiian pidgin translation of "this place." It symbolizes pride in one's home and nods to the pidgin languages in both the Northwest Coast and Hawaiian Islands. It also references the challenges faced by both communities as they navigated displacement from their homelands.

> Have you heard folks speak Hawaiian Pidgin, Chinuk Wawa, or ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi? Try listening to the languages online.
> In addition to pidgin languages, what else do Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest have in common?

ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi	Native Hawaiian language
pidgin language	a language with simplified vocabulary and grammar that develops between multiple groups of people without a common language
Indigenous	the original people who have lived in a place since time immemorial, anywhere in the world
displacement	when something or someone is forced to leave their usual place or home

HOLOKAHIKI
FIRST HAWAIIANS ABROAD

KNOWING THE PAST

Although Western history records of the exchanges between Hawai'i and foreign lands begin in the late 1700s, there is DNA evidence that Polynesians and Kānaka Maoli have been navigating across oceans and contacting groups indigenous to Turtle Island for hundreds or thousands of years.

> In addition to written records and DNA, what are other ways people can determine what happened in the past?

THE STORY OF WAINE'E, THE FIRST DOCUMENTED HAWAIIAN ABROAD

The first documented Kanaka Maoli holokahiki is a middle-aged woman named Waine'e (pronounced Why-nay-ay). Waine'e worked as an assistant to Frances Barkley, a European woman, on a European merchant ship in 1787. Onboard the ship, she traveled from Hawai'i to Nootka Sound in what is now Canada, where the ship picked up highly-prized furs. Next they sailed to Guangzhou, China to trade. Frances Barkley was the first openly female European sailor, and she wrote in her diary that Waine'e was eager to learn and an agreeable companion to have at sea. The two women became very close during their time together. Sadly, after two years at sea, Waine'e fell ill and passed away during the return trip to Hawai'i.

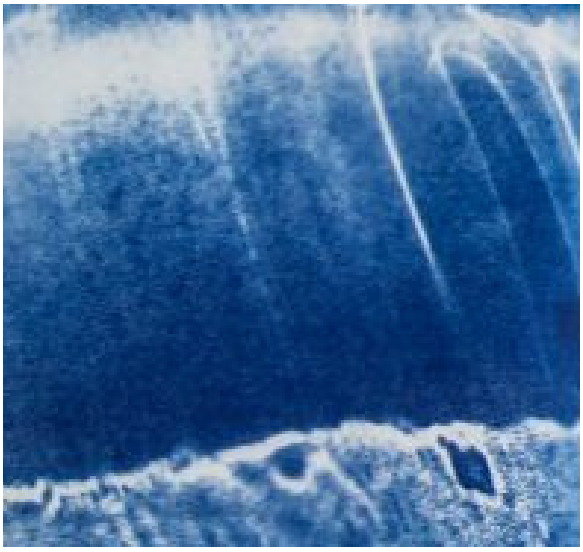
A member of Barkley's crew created this etching of Waine'e. The artist anglicized her features by making her face look European. Only her clothing and accessories suggest her Native Hawaiian heritage. Representing her in this non-factual way was intended to show that she was "civilized" in comparison to individuals whose images were not anglicized.

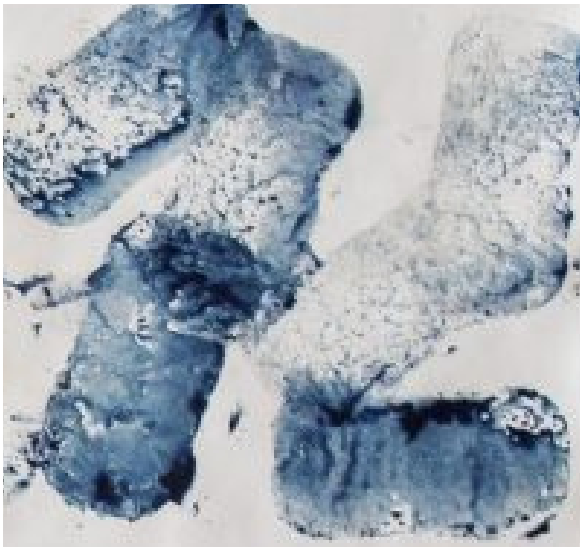
> Why was Waine'e the "first documented" Kanaka Maoli traveler instead of just the "first"?
> What was significant about Waine'e and Frances Barkley's presence on the ship?
> What do you think about how the artist chose to depict Waine'e?
> Why would the artist want to show that Waine'e was "civilized"?

Kanaka or Kanaka Maoli Native Hawaiian person (singular)
Kānaka or Kānaka Maoli Native Hawaiian people (plural)
Turtle Island name for North America; often used by Indigenous communities
holokahiki "sailor to foreign lands" in ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi

WHAT DOES THE OCEAN MEAN TO YOU?

WITH ARTWORK BY KIA TAKAMORI-TIHADA





Details of Cluster 1, Cluster 2, and Cluster 3 by Kia Takamori-Tihada

LOOK CLOSELY

Take a whole minute to look closely at the 3 artworks by Kia Takamori-Tihada.

> What do you notice about the similarities and differences between each artwork?
> Based on the artwork, what words do you think the artist would use to describe the ocean?

ART ACTIVITY

Close your eyes and imagine the ocean. What does the air feel like? What does the water feel like? Using watercolors or marker on paper, express how the ocean feels through lines and texture.

Next, imagine a beach. How does the ground feel on your feet? What are the water and air like here? Make a second artwork expressing the beach.

THE MEANING OF THE OCEAN

The exhibition curators said that: "In Native Hawaiian culture, the ocean is not seen as a barrier or separation, but instead as a way of linking many otherwise disparate cultures and communities."

> Do you think the artist would agree with this statement? Why or why not?
> What does the ocean mean to you in your life or culture?

MEET THE ARTIST

Kia Takamori-Tihada (she/her) calls Maui, Hawai'i home. She came to Portland for college. Kia says: "I love this ocean. I wish I understood the importance of this big beauty before I left home."

> If you could meet Kia, what questions would you ask?