FIVE OAKS MUSEUM

SOCIAL MEDIA TAKEOVER: KANANI MIYAMOTO

June 7, 2021

Aloha, my name is Kanani Miyamoto (she,her) @mamakanani. I was born and raised on the island of O'ahu. Half my life was spent on the windward side of the island and the other half on the south side. I'm an individual of mixed heritage, being born and raised in Hawai'i, I identify most with my Hawaiian and Japanese heritage. I am a displaced Hawaiian and I currently live and work in Portland, Or. I'm an artist, educator and curator.

This week I'll share my art practice, work as an educator and talk more about the DISplace exhibit I co-curated with @_lehuauakea_ . I'll be logging on from O'ahu so I'll have tons of surprises for you! I am so excited to share with you all and hope you will share with me as well!

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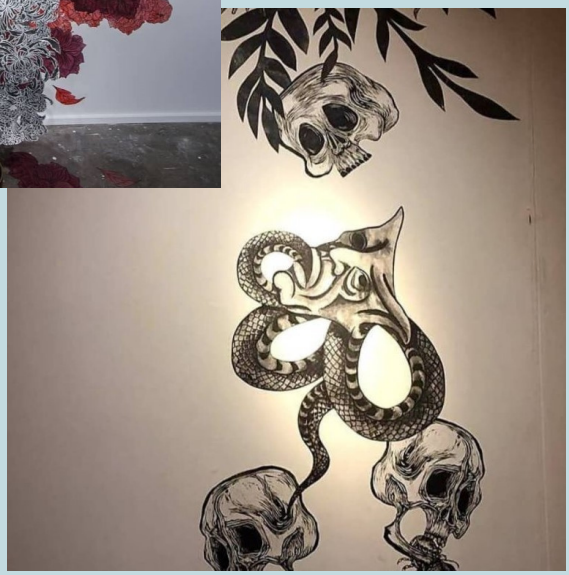
June 8,2021
□□day 2 of takeover!

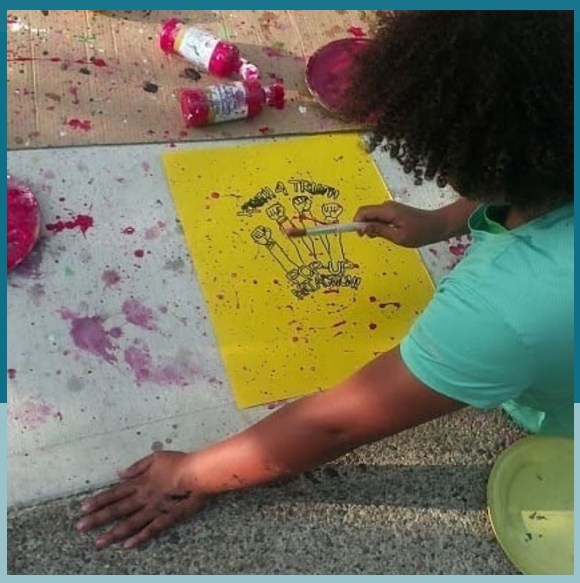
I was introduced to printmaking in middle school and instantly fell in love with it. I received an MFA in print media at Pacific Northwest College of Art and I use this historic art form in print based, large scale, wheat pasted installations. I'm interested in taking up space and both physically and mentally moving viewers.

I make art because I want to tell stories, heal, celebrate, create critical thoughts and discourse. I love community based art projects, collaboration, independent gallery spaces and actions and sharing skills. The idea of art by the people for the people really resonates with me.



YOUTH 4 TRUTH
POP-UP
ART ACTION!

Let Em Go
Let Em Grow
TRANS YOUTH
STAND WITH
TRANS YOUTH



June 9, 2021

Aloha! It's day 3 of my takeover and I want to hear your stories. The DISplace exhibit includes stories from our community about their connections to the islands and how they stay connected even when far away.

This was such a great feature of the exhibit not only did we learn more about the unique culture that comes from being from Hawai'i, with this act of sharing we strengthened our community with deeper more meanful connections.

In the online exhibit @misskilla shared the importance of music to connect. Nev Faull finds a connection with food, and the students of a Portland hula school find connections through dance.

I would like to extend that call and hear your stories. You don't have to be Native Hawaiian, share with me a story, personal account, photograph, recipe, whatever you see fit of your connection to the islands.

To share post in your IG and tag the museum so I can share in our stories.

June 10, 2021

It's day 4 of my takeover, I thought today I'd share more about the thoughts that go into my work and what I hope people get from seeing it.

As an artist many of my ideas and themes include ending the romanticized myths of Hawai'i and the people from Hawai'i. I want to put to bed exotic fantasies built on capitalism and settler colonialism that has damaged the islands and her people. Also important to my work is sharing and celebrating my unique mixed background in our contemporary art world in hopes to represent my community and the beauty of intersectional identities.

My goal as an artist and educator is to change the eurocentric standard we have in fine art education and institutions. I want people to ask more questions and look deeper and harder at visual art. I want diverse traditional cultural practices embedded into academia. I want my community represented truly, equally and fairly in the fine art cannon.

This installation was called, Industry of Aloha. The bright colorful flowers and fruit are ones that are commonly associated with Hawai'i but have been damaging. Here they are shown overpowering the native plants.

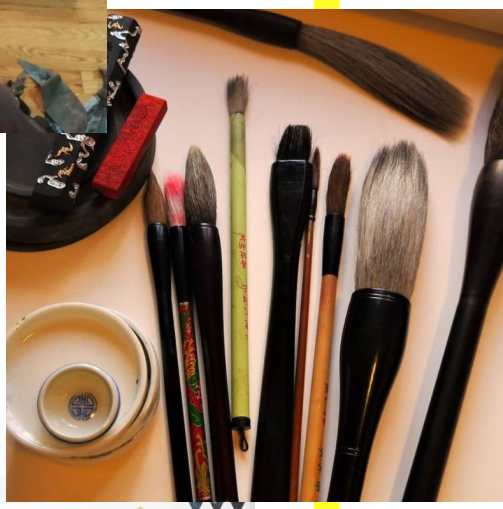
The pineapple for me is one of the worst. In American culture putting pineapple on food items immediately changes them to a Hawaiian food, like the Hawaiian pizza. Pineapple is not native to Hawai'i, it is not Hawaiian at all.

The illegal takeover of the Hawaiian Islands had everything to do with pineapple and sugar. These plantations were growing and the American business men saw the islands as being very lucrative. Stanford Dole, who's family went on to start the Dole Food Company, lead the coup that held Queen Lili'uokalani hostage and made her sign away her Kingdom by gunpoint. The pineapple is very anti Hawaiian if you ask me.

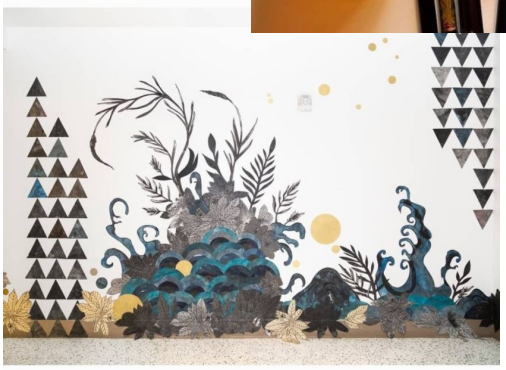
June 11, 2021
It's Aloha Friday and Kamehameha day! Day 5 of my takeover.

I wanted to share my process with you all today. The wheatpasted murals I put up are printbased, I use mostly woodblock and screen prints in these installations however sometimes I include handpainted elements or intaglio prints.

The installations are collaged directly to walls. Each motif is hand printed, painted and cut. I have a story in my head while making these and the composition only takes shape while I install.



I use many traditional Japanese materials and techniques to make my work and many visual elements are pulled from my Buddhist beliefs and Hawaiian 'ike or knowledge I grew up with. I really try to combine philosophies that have formed my mixed identity and the identities of many people from the Hawaiian Islands.



This installation is called Ka Lipo. It was inspired by the Kumulipo, the Hawaiian creation chant.

June 12, 2021

My take over has come to an end. Thank you so much for letting me share my story and work. I'll be answering questions all day in the stories check it out.

Before I sign off I wanted to share a little about the current project I'm working on. I've collaborated with @eric.dayton.art for @art.zero.now on an installation that will go up at the end of this month. Art Zero Now is an organization dedicated to a carbon neutral future for the art world. It has been quite a journey learning how my art practice impacts our planet. Keep an eye out we've been documenting the process! No matter what place we call home we have to take care of the land and each other.

DISplace, the online exhibit will be up for a few more weeks be sure to check it out. Also Five Oaks Museum has really great learning modules easily adapted for learners of all ages spread the word!

A hui ho!