



**INAUGURAL EDITION OF HONOLULU BIENNIAL OPENS MARCH 8  
FEATURING MORE THAN 30 ARTISTS  
PRESENTED ACROSS URBAN AND HISTORIC SITES,  
INCLUDING A FEATURED LOCATION AT WARD VILLAGE®**

*Celebrating Contemporary Artists and Cultures of the Pacific Rim,  
Biennial will be Accompanied by a Series of Public Programs and Events  
Throughout Its Two-Month Run*

**Honolulu, Hawai‘i – December 21, 2016** – In anticipation of the opening this spring, the Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF) today announced the comprehensive list of artists participating in the 2017 Honolulu Biennial. The roster features leading, midcareer, and emerging artists from Hawai‘i, the Pacific Islands, Asia, North America, Australia, and New Zealand, including Yayoi Kusama, Lisa Reihana, who will also be representing New Zealand in the upcoming Venice Biennale, Lee Mingwei, and local talents Kaili Chun, Chris Ritson, and Drew Broderick. Artists were selected by Curatorial Director Fumio Nanjo, Director of Tokyo’s Mori Art Museum, and Curator Ngahiraka Mason, former Curator of Indigenous Art, Maori Art at Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. Titled *Middle of Now | Here*, the Honolulu Biennial highlights the dynamic and diverse perspectives of artists from the cultures linked by the Pacific Ocean and underscores the idea that place has a lasting impact on individual and communal identities.

Title sponsor, The Howard Hughes Corporation®, will host the main venue of the event with over 20 artist installations located throughout the company’s Ward Village® community, located between Waikiki and downtown Honolulu. A comprehensive list of artists follows at the end of this release.

“Where we live shapes who we are. Our everyday surroundings affect our lives. Everything we are, all we have been, and are becoming is related to place,” said Nanjo and Mason in a joint statement of the guiding vision for the Biennial. “The power of geography and its affect on worldviews, culture, and stylistic and conceptual approaches to art are real and persistent. The Honolulu Biennial recognizes place-based creativity as living and continuous, and seeks to shine a light on the incredible variation and complexity of art created by artists from this part of the world.”

HBF also revealed today the complete list of urban and historic sites for the Biennial. The heart of the Biennial will reside at Ward Village® in a space that once served as the former location of the Sports Authority in Honolulu. Additional sites for the event include the historic IBM Building at Ward Village®, Honolulu Hale (City Hall), Foster Botanical Garden, the Arts at Marks Garage located in historic Chinatown, Bishop Museum, Honolulu Museum of Art, and a community arts center. Many of the Biennial sites are free and all will be accessible throughout the two-month run from March 8 to May 8, enhancing opportunities to engage and excite a wide array of audiences with the art of local and international artists and increase awareness of Honolulu’s cultural assets and contributions to a broader international dialogue.

Challenging the notion that Hawai‘i is in “the middle of nowhere,” the Biennial presents Honolulu as a major cultural hub where art and ideas from around the Pacific region are developed and exchanged. Covering more than 30% of the Earth’s surface, the Pacific is the largest unified living space on the planet. At the heart of this vibrant Pacific community, Hawai‘i serves as a vital bridge between East and



West and as a meeting point for the diverse cultures of the area. The Biennial expands art world perspectives to highlight the thriving cultural scene of the Pacific, and demonstrates the important subjects being explored by artists of the region, ranging from the impact of colonization and Westernization to the myriad environmental issues faced by local and global communities.

Installation highlights include:

- A video work by **Lisa Reihana**, New Zealand, that responds directly to the chief mourner's costume, which is in the permanent collection of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. This video installation continues Reihana's examination of Pacific history and mythology through a contemporary lens.
- A new project by artist **Jane Chang Mi**, who is based in Hawai'i part time, explores the bombing, ecology, and history of Pearl Harbor. Trained as both an ocean engineer and an artist, Chang Mi's work considers the politics of land and postcolonial ecologies. Drawing on archival underwater video-documentation taken by US divers surveying the resting place of the USS Arizona and the USS Utah between 1990 and 1996, as well as historical archives, Chang Mi's work examines the impact of these events on local ecosystems.
- A continuation of interdisciplinary artist **Beatrice Glow's** research, interpretation, and presentation of the invisible stories of colonialism, which she has been working on as an Artist-in-Residence at New York University's Asian/Pacific/American Institute through the form of a mixed-media installation. Revisiting colonial expansion and the history of spice trading between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Indonesian artist's multisensory project focuses specifically on the pungent spices nutmeg and mace, which were extracted from Rhun, the smallest island of the Banda Islands, now part of Indonesia.
- A series of word paintings that explore the development and proliferation of community knowledge and how local interpretations of information relate to broader global systems of understanding by artist duo **Les Filter Feeders**. Based in Honolulu and composed of Keith Tallet and Sally Lundburg, Les Filter Feeders incorporates colloquial language and local sense of humor to examine how communities, small and large, are shaped, and the role of the individual within them.

The artists' installations will be accompanied by a robust series of free public programs that aim to increase cross-cultural dialogue and expand understanding of contemporary art from this vibrant region. Programming will include panel discussions with artists and artistic leadership from the area, film screenings, and workshops developed for families with young children. The full slate of programming, along with the Biennial's opening events, will be announced in February.

Ongoing financial and logistic contributions from title sponsor, The Howard Hughes Corporation®, have enhanced the scope of the grassroots efforts and range of the Biennial, allowing for a greater selection of artists and sites for the event, as well as the central location at Ward Village®.

The comprehensive list of participating artists follows:

**Vernon Ah Kee**, Australia  
**Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan**,  
Australia/Philippines

**Andrew Binkley**, Hawai'i  
**Drew Broderick**, Hawai'i  
**Jane Chang Mi**, Hawai'i /USA



**Kaili Chun**, Hawai'i  
**Sean Connelly**, Hawai'i  
**Beatrice Glow**, USA  
**Brett Graham**, New Zealand  
**Marcus Hanalei Marzan**, Hawai'i  
**Choi Jeong Hwa**, Korea  
**Kathy Jetnil Kijiner**, Marshall Islands  
**Mohammad Kazem**, U.A.E.  
**Yuki Kihara**, New Zealand  
**Charlton Kupa'a Hee**, Hawai'i  
**Yayoi Kusama**, Japan  
**Al Laguenro**, Hawai'i  
**Alexander Lee**, Tahiti

**Les Filter Feeders**, Hawai'i  
**Mariquita Micki Davis**, USA  
**Eko Nugroho**, Indonesia  
**Fiona Pardington**, New Zealand  
**Lisa Reihana**, New Zealand  
**Chris Ritson**, Hawai'i  
**Michelle L. Schwengel-Regala**, Hawai'i  
**Greg Semu**, New Zealand/Samoa  
**John Vea**, New Zealand/Tonga  
**Zhan Wang**, China  
**Lynne Yamamoto**, USA  
**Ken and Julia Yonetani**, Australia/New Zealand

Partners for the Biennial include: Title Sponsor, Ward Village®, developed by The Howard Hughes Corporation®, as well as: [Art + Flea](#), [artnet](#), [Art Monthly Australasia](#), [Art News New Zealand](#), [ArtAsiaPacific](#), [Bishop Museum](#), [City and County of Honolulu](#), [Cognoscenti Travel](#), [Creative New Zealand](#), [Engaging the Senses](#), [Enterprise Holdings](#), [Halekulani](#), [Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki](#), [Hawai'i International Film Festival](#), [HonBlue](#), [Honolulu Museum of Art](#), [Kelly Ann Brown Foundation](#), [Korea Foundation](#), [Mayor's Office of Culture & the Arts](#), [Nā Mea Hawai'i](#), [Neiman Marcus](#), [Nella Media Group](#), [PacRim Marketing Group Inc.](#), [Pegge Hopper Gallery](#), [Shangri La/Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art](#), [Summit](#), [The ARTS at Marks Garage](#), [The Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club](#).

#### **About the Honolulu Biennial Foundation**

Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF) is a 501c3 that supports the local arts infrastructure of Hawai'i with global outreach by presenting a new visual arts festival, Honolulu Biennial. The launch of Honolulu Biennial marks Hawai'i's first entry into the international biennial circuit. In addition to the Biennial, HBF operates throughout the year, presenting a series of ongoing public programs and educational workshops for the community.

#### **About Ward Village®**

Developed by The Howard Hughes Corporation®, Ward Village® is a 60-acre master-planned community transforming the heart of Honolulu between downtown and Waikīkī. Along with its first residences, Waiea®, Ward Village® includes three additional mixed-use residential towers – Anaha®, Ae'o and Ke Kilohana – that are now under construction and will continue to transform the popular shopping and dining district into a vibrant neighborhood offering exceptional residences with incredible island and ocean views and a carefully curated mix of retail experiences set among dynamic public open spaces and walkable streets.

Waiea includes 174 residences and will be home to internationally acclaimed restaurant Nobu Honolulu. Anaha, opening mid-2017, will include 317 residences and the first Merriman's restaurant on O'ahu. Ae'o will complete construction in 2018; it will include 466 residences and O'ahu's flagship Whole Foods Market. Ke Kilohana is slated for completion in 2019, and the 424 home tower welcomes a flagship Longs Drugs to the neighborhood.

A fifth project, currently available for sale, is Gateway Towers on Ala Moana Boulevard that will bring the architecture of world-renowned architect Richard Meier to the Honolulu skyline.



The vision for Ward Village® is consistent with the master plan approved by the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority in 2009, which allows for up to 9.3 million square feet of mixed-use development, converting into more than 4,000 residences and over one million square feet of retail space.

**About The Howard Hughes Corporation®**

The Howard Hughes Corporation® owns, manages and develops commercial, residential and mixed-use real estate throughout the U.S. Our properties include master planned communities, operating properties, development opportunities and other unique assets spanning 16 states from New York to Hawai‘i. The Howard Hughes Corporation is traded on the New York Stock Exchange as HHC with major offices in New York, Columbia, MD, Dallas, Houston, Las Vegas and Honolulu. For additional information about HHC, visit [www.howardhughes.com](http://www.howardhughes.com) or find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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