

# HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2003

Exhibition Info: (808) 532-8701

Theatre Events: (808) 532-8768 Mgr: 532-8769

Web Site: [www.honoluluacademy.org](http://www.honoluluacademy.org)

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## **Korean Artist Komelia Honja Okim featured in Exhibition**

The Honolulu Academy of Arts presents a solo exhibition by Korean-born artist Komelia Hongja Okim in the Graphic Arts Gallery September 18 through November 16, 2003. This exhibition, *Reflections of Two Worlds: A Korean American Heritage - Metalwork by Komelia Hongja Okim*, will feature recent silver hollowware and figurative forms, many worked in the *Kum-Boo* (Korean gold-foil overlay) technique, a challenging and traditional process rarely practiced today, as well as silver and mixed-metal sculpture.

This exhibition coincides with the Academy's presentation of *Crossings 2003: Korea/Hawaii* honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawaii.

Komelia Okim was born in Seoul, Korea, and educated in both Korea and the United States. She majored in Fiber Arts at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. She also earned both a BA and MFA in Metal Art from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

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For more than 30 years, Professor Okim has brought passion, energy, and professionalism to her art and her teaching of jewelry and metalsmithing at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. The public has come to know her through exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and publications. Twice she was chosen as a senior Fulbright Exchange Scholar to Korea where she taught at Hong-Ik University from 1982 to 1983 and Won-Kwang University from 1994 to 1995. She also researched and published Korean metal techniques known as *Kum-Boo* and *Poe-Mok Saang-Gum*.

Okim has held 21 solo exhibitions in Korea, USA, Canada, and France. She has received many awards and special recognition in regional, national and international exhibitions. In addition, she has organized many international traveling exhibitions in Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and the US, and conducted over 100 lectures, workshops, and demonstrations in several countries including Korea, Canada, Germany, Norway, Taiwan, Thailand, France, Russia, and the United States.

Her artworks are placed in the permanent collections of the Korean National Museum of Contemporary Art, the American Crafts Museum in New York, the Honolulu Academy of Arts, The Contemporary Museum (Honolulu, Hawaii), the Indiana University Art Museum,

and many other public and private collections.

Curating the exhibition is Jennifer Saville, the Academy's Curator of Western Art. For more information, call the Academy at (808) 532-8700.

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**General Information: Location:** The Academy is located at 900 S. Beretania Street in the Thomas Square Historic District, only 10 minutes from Waikiki and the downtown Honolulu business district. **Hours:** Tues. through Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.; Closed Monday. Guided tours offered are Tues. through Sat. at 11 a.m.; Sun. at 1:15 p.m. The Pavilion Café serves lunch Tues. through Sat. from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Academy Shop is open during normal Museum hours. **Admission:** \$7 - General admission; \$4 for seniors (62+), students (13 and over), and military; Members and children 12 and under are free. Admission is free to The Academy Shop, The Pavilion Café, and the Academy Art Center. Complimentary admission is offered to the public on the first Wednesday of the month. **Phone Numbers:** General Info: 532-8700; Recorded info: Exhibitions - 532-8701; Theater Events - 532-8768. **Web Site:** [www.honoluluacademy.org](http://www.honoluluacademy.org) **Shangri La Tours:** For ticketing information for Doris Duke's estate, Shangri La, call toll free 1-866-385-3849.