



PRESS INFORMATION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2006

CONTACTS:

Lisa Yoshihara, Director
Sharon Tasaka, Associate Director
University of Hawai'i Art Gallery
2535 McCarthy Mall
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 956-6888 • www.hawaii.edu/artgallery
galleries@hawaii.edu

Shayna Coleon
JCCH Public Relations Director
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
2454 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96826
(808) 945-7633 • www.jcch.com
coleon@jcch.com

PANEL DISCUSSION

Importance of Story-Making

Focuses on remembering, sharing, and preserving stories

Moderator: Judge Riki May Amano (Ret.), President/Executive Director,
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Panelists:

Aaron Kerner, Curator of *Reconstructing Memories*

Kaili Chun (Hawai'i), Artist in *Reconstructing Memories*

Katsushige Nakahashi (Japan), Artist in *Reconstructing Memories*

Warren Nishimoto, Director for the Center for Oral History,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Mariko Miho, Director of Development for Community Colleges,
University of Hawai'i Foundation

Translator: John Szostak, Assistant Professor of Japanese Art History,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

DATE, TIME, PLACE

Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Manoa Ballroom, Fifth Floor, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
(JCCH)

ADMISSION

Admission is free. Parking is \$3 with validation.

more...

PANEL DISCUSSION FORMAT & EXHIBITION SUMMARY

The **Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH)** and the **University of Hawai'i Art Gallery** present the *Importance of Story-Making*, a panel discussion held in conjunction with *Reconstructing Memories*, the exhibition that is currently on view at the University of Hawai'i Art Gallery. The twelve artists in this exhibition consider the relationship between memory and history, and demonstrate the fragility and tenuous nature of human memory, upon which history is based. By considering core issues of constructing historical narratives, the artists recreated family or collective history and at the same time, question the nature of the historical process.

The panel discussion will focus on the importance of remembering and telling stories of the past, the connections that are made, and the feelings that are shared between the storyteller and the recipient. There will be an emphasis on stories that may not have been brought to the forefront of our collective memory and history, and the reasons why the stories have been muted.

Aaron Kerner, curator of *Reconstructing Memories* will introduce the concept of the exhibition. Artists Kaili Chun and Katsushige Nakahashi will talk about the significance and influence of the people who shared their stories and how they inspired their art. Warren Nishimoto and Mariko Miho will discuss our increasing interest in our diverse, local history, and the preservation of memories of our elders. The audience will be invited to participate in a question and answer session.

BRIEF BIOS

President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i since 2004, Judge **Riki May Amano (Ret.)** served as a judge in the Circuit Court and District Court in Hilo for more than 11 years before retiring. The first woman to be appointed as a judge on the island of Hawai'i, Amano was in private practice, and also served as Deputy Attorney General.

more...

Aaron Kerner, curator of *Reconstructing Memories*, is an assistant professor at the cinema department, San Francisco State University. He has a Ph.D. in sociology, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia; a master's in cultural studies, University of Leeds; and a bachelor's in art history, University of California, Santa Cruz. His research focuses on issues of representing catastrophic history.

Born in Honolulu, **Kaili Chun** received an Artium Baccalaureus in architecture from Princeton University, and a master's from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She was mentored by two important artists—Toshiko Takaezu at Princeton, and Wright Elemakule Bowman Sr., a master craftsman revered as one of the creators of the voyaging canoe Hōkule'a, with whom she apprenticed.

Katsushige Nakahashi holds a bachelor's in fine arts from Tokyo Zokei University. His *Zero Projects* were presented at Kodama Gallery, Tokyo, 2003; Cowra, Australia, 2002; and Osaka Contemporary Art Center, 1998. Nakahashi received the Silver Prize in the Osaka Triennale, 1995; Excellence Prize in the Sculpture Competition, Hyogo, 1987. He was born in Kagawa Prefecture, Japan.

Warren Nishimoto, Ph.D. in education, UHM, is director of the Center for Oral History, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He has coordinated oral history projects that document the people of Hawai'i and their history and culture for over 25 years, and has taught courses and workshops on oral history around the world. He was born in Honolulu.

In 2001, **Mariko Miho**, former executive director of the Hawai'i Okinawa Center and recently Director of Development for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i Foundation, was part of a group that organized the "Okinawan Discovery Series." The series included the rare documents and artifacts in the Sakamaki/Hawley/Ryukyu/Okinawa Collection at Hamilton Library, UHM.

John Szostak is an assistant professor of Japanese art history at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He holds a Ph.D. and master's from the University of Washington, and a bachelor's from Colgate University. His research focuses on traditional Japanese painting of the mid-19th and early 20th century. He has worked with Katsushige Nakahashi on a Zero Project in Seattle.

SPONSORS

The panel discussion is sponsored by the **Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i** and the **University of Hawai'i Department of Art and Art History** and the **College of Arts & Humanities**. *Reconstructing Memories* is sponsored by the University of Hawai'i Department of Art and Art History and the College of Arts & Humanities. It is supported in part by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts through appropriations from the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i and by the National Endowment for the Arts; Laila Art Fund; and the Watumull Grant for Museum Studies. Public program partners include: Intersections Visiting Artist Program; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i; University of Hawai'i Museum Studies Program; The Honorable Mufi Hanneman, Mayor, City & County of Honolulu; and the Honolulu Fire Department.