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PRESS INQUIRIES

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HAWAI'I CONTEMPORARY NAMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Art director Rosina Potter to lead the visual arts organization, the presenter of Hawai'i Triennial; international publisher Masako Shinn to serve as board chair

HONOLULU (Sept. 22, 2022) — Hawai'i Contemporary, presenter of Hawai'i Triennial (the state's largest, periodic, international exhibition of contemporary art), announced today that Rosina Potter has been named executive director. Formerly the art director at Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea, Potter has been a community-minded gallerist and champion of contemporary art and artists in Hawai'i for more than a decade and a half.

"As a key collaborator within the arts community, Hawai'i Contemporary plays a pivotal role in growing the visual arts ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands," Potter said. "Visiting Honolulu Biennial 2017 truly affected the trajectory of my career, inspiring me and instilling a greater belief in the power of community-based art. I'm thrilled to be joining the organization at such an exciting time, and look forward to building upon the compelling legacy of the past biennial and triennial exhibitions."

Hawai'i Contemporary recently held a successful Hawai'i Triennial 2022 (Feb. 18–May 8, 2022), which attracted more than 100,600 attendees to seven exhibition partner sites on O'ahu and featured 43 artists and art collectives from Hawai'i, the Pacific and beyond. Potter's appointment comes as the organization begins preparations for the next iteration of the Triennial in 2025. She leads a team of visual arts professionals that includes associate director Josh Tengan, project director Nicole Duarte, and development associate Monica Lee. Outgoing executive director, Katherine Don, will remain with Hawai'i Contemporary in a consulting capacity as director of partnerships.

Hawai'i Contemporary also reset its board of directors, naming board members Masako Shinn as board chair and Maile Meyer as vice-chair. Shinn is a publisher of books and magazines on Asian design and has served on the boards of Asia Foundation, Japan Society and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts at the Kennedy Center. Meyer, owner of Honolulu-based Nā Mea Hawai'i and Native Books, is a long-time advocate of Hawai'i-based and Kānaka Maoli artists, cultural practitioners and authors.

"Hawai'i embodies community, multiculturalism and a respect for nature — values that are critical counterbalances to the political divisions and environmental devastation that we face today," Shinn said. "I look forward to Hawai'i Triennial 2025 bringing together artists from Hawai'i and around the world who share such values to collectively present an art experience that contributes to conversations about our futures."

Meyer underscored Hawai'i Contemporary's work as a crucial connector that exhibits Hawai'i-based artists alongside their global contemporaries. "With its presence in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Hawai'i is surrounded by waterways that connect us to a vast region that spans lands, languages and cultures," Meyer said. "With aloha as our most fundamental cultural tenant, we, as people of place, offer a model of wonder, creativity and radical collaboration."

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Rosina Potter worked for more than 15 years in art gallery management, project consulting and community development before being named art director at Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea in 2018. As the company's sole arts professional, she managed the Resort's Artists Showcase, a museum-quality permanent collection, and created related programming and activations. She served on the board of Art Maui and consulted on a range of arts and cultural projects in support of local artists. A long-time friend of the organization, she was instrumental in bringing guests to Honolulu Biennials in 2017 and 2019. Born in North Carolina, Potter graduated from University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in history and art history. She has lived on Maui since 2004.

Masako Shinn is a board trustee of American Friends of M+ and Japan ICU Foundation, as well as a minority partner of Graphis Inc., a publisher of books and magazines on design. Prior to Graphis, she held senior positions at Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., Salomon Brothers, Inc. and Morgan Stanley, Inc. Shinn served on the boards of Asia Foundation, Japan Society, Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts at the Kennedy Center. She received her bachelor's degree from International Christian University in Tokyo, a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business School, a master's degree in East Asian studies from Columbia University and a doctorate degree in the history of design from Bard Graduate Center in New York. She joined the Hawai'i Contemporary board in 2021.

Maile Meyer is co-owner of Arts & Letters Nu'uuanu, a mixed-use bookshop, art gallery, co-working and events space in Chinatown on O'ahu. The gallery features rotating exhibits that highlight emerging and established Hawai'i-based artists as well as guest curators. Meyer is well known as the proprietor of Nā Mea Hawai'i, a purveyor of local goods, fine art and traditional objects made in Hawai'i; and owner of Native Books, a community resource for books and media about Hawai'i and the Pacific. She serves on the boards of Hawai'i Arts Alliance, MA'O Farms and Pu'uhonua Society, a nonprofit that supports Native Hawaiian and Hawai'i-based artists and cultural practitioners through the development of exhibitions, a makers' space and cultural classes that are taught in the traditional Hawaiian way.

About Hawai'i Contemporary

Inspired by the unique histories of Hawai'i, a gathering place for diverse peoples and cultures, Hawai'i Contemporary connects with communities from across our islands and across regions united by the Pacific Ocean. As a collaborative art partner, we cultivate cultural alliances to organize our signature initiatives, including Hawai'i Triennial, the state's largest periodic exhibition of contemporary art from Hawai'i and around the world, which is held every three years. The multi-site Triennial is complemented by year-round public and education programs and preceded by an international Art Summit, featuring artists, curators, and cultural thinkers. A not-for-profit arts organization, Hawai'i Contemporary (formerly known as Honolulu Biennial Foundation) continues to build on the success of its past art exhibitions — Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and 2019, and Hawai'i Triennial 2022 — to contribute to and grow a vibrant arts ecosystem, creating an accessible gateway for contemporary art in Hawai'i nei. // hawaiicontemporary.org // [@hawaiicontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/hawaiicontemporary)

[MEDIA IMAGES](#) available for editorial use.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

This press release contains words in 'ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language), one of two official languages of the State of Hawai'i. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i utilizes two diacritical marks: a kahakō (macron) and an 'okina (glottal stop). Please note that an 'okina — and not an apostrophe — is used in the word Hawai'i.

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