

## KAMRAN SAMIMI

### BIO

Informed by a strong sense of place and his multi-cultural identity (Iranian/Norwegian raised in rural Hawai'i), Kamran Samimi's artistic practice centers on natural and indigenous ephemera —stones, wood, pigment, and land—as conduits to explore the intricate dynamics, tensions, and histories that exist between human and non-human ancestors.

Samimi contemplates the ways in which these interconnected relationships might engender moments of equilibrium, compassion and healing in a world marked by oppression, injustice, and widespread devastation. Specifically, Samimi draws inspiration from the direct, experiential focus on Nature also found in Zen Buddhism and Sufi Mysticism. As a testament to these philosophies, as well as a formal artistic proposition, his approach is both reverent and whimsical, mirroring Nature's gestures: deconstructing and reforming with intention and compassion.

Kamran Samimi grew up in rural Laupāhoehoe on Hawai'i Island to parents of Iranian and Norwegian ancestry. He has been exhibiting art since 2008, and has had solo exhibitions at The Third Line, Dubai, the Sharjah Art Museum in United Arab Emirates, the Honolulu Museum of Art, and the Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design. He has also shown at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburg, PA, and Tokyo Midtown in Tokyo, Japan, and many other venues around the globe. Samimi was the recipient of the 2024 Artists of Hawai'i Best in Show Award and holds an BFA in Printmaking and an MFA in Print Media and Sculpture from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

### CV

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024** *Before Nature (I am Both Created and Destroyed)* The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
- 2022** *Nature/Nature*, re.riddle gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2021** *Traces of the Traceless*, Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates  
*Sanctuaries*, Shangri La Museum of Art, Culture & Design, Honolulu, HI
- 2020** *In Stillness*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI
- 2019** *Origins*, Kirsch Gallery, Punahou School, Honolulu, HI  
*Unearthed*, Kahilu Theatre, Waimea, Hawai'i Island
- 2017** *Art on the Avenue*, Saks Fifth Ave, Waikiki, HI
- 2016** *Passage*, University of Hawaii Manoa Department of Art and Art History, Honolulu, HI
- 2015** *Entry*, University of Hawaii, Manoa Art Department, Honolulu, HI
- 2014** *Soft Edge*, Nanogallery, Honolulu Museum of Art School, Honolulu, HI  
*Diminishing Sequence*, University of Hawaii, Manoa Art Department, Honolulu, HI

## SOLO SCULPTURAL INSTALLATIONS

- 2022 *Converging Pathways*, Private residence, North Kohala, HI
- 2021 *Recollection*, Thomas Square Park, Honolulu, HI
- 2021 *Five Totems*, 1 Hotel, Hanalei Bay, Kauai'i, HI
- 2018 *Diminishing Sequence*, WATG Architects, Honolulu, HI
- 2017 *Pagoda*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI
- 2016 *Kilauea*, The John Young Museum of Art at the University of Hawaii Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- 2015 *Ascent*, Honolulu Museum of Art/Thomas Square Park, Honolulu, HI

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Artists of Hawai'i* (Recipient of Best in Show Award), DAC Honolulu, HI, (Juried)  
Honolulu New Painting Invitational, University of Hawaii Manoa Art Gallery, Honolulu, HI, (Juried)  
Elements, First Hawaiian Bank Downtown, Honolulu (Invited)  
*Pacific States Biennial National Print Exhibition*, (Recipient of First Place Award), University of Hawaii at Hilo, HI (Juried)
- 2019 *HML Festival Tokyo 2018*, Tokyo Midtown, Japan (group)  
*Kagu+Akari*, Fishcake, Honolulu, HI (group)  
*Acts of Faith (Spiritual Contact)*, Hawaiian Mission Houses, Honolulu, HI (juried)
- 2018 *Stone and Sea*, Hawaii State Art Museum, Honolulu, HI (group)
- 2016 *Foreign and Familiar (Contact 2016)*, Honolulu Museum of Art School Honolulu, HI (juried)
- 2015 *UHUH*, White Box Galley, Queensland College of Art, Australia (group)  
*37th Annual Japanese Chamber of Commerce Exhibition*, Honolulu Museum of Art, HI (Juried)  
*87th Annual Honolulu Printmakers Exhibition*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI (juried)
- 2014 *Pacific States Biennial National Print Exhibition*, University of Hawaii at Hilo, HI (Juried)
- 2013 *NSAL Excellence in Printmaking*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA (juried)

## EDUCATION

- 2016 Master of Fine Arts - Print Media and Sculpture, University of Hawaii at Manoa, HI
- 2011 Continuing Education - Graphic Design, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- 2010 Bachelor of Fine Arts - Printmaking, University of Hawaii at Manoa, HI

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

- Jan 2024 - "Conversations - Kamran Samimi" -Magzoid Dubai - <https://tinyurl.com/4nw9anb8>
- Aug 2021 - "Revisiting in Stillness" - Honolulu Museum of Art - <https://honolulumuseum.org/stories/>

# re.riddle

May 2021 - Interview - IBUCIAO China - <https://tinyurl.com/3c3vr4wj>

Dec 2020 - "Seeking the Source" Living Magazine, Halekulani - <https://halekulaniliving.tv/arts/seeking-the-source/>

Feb 2020 - Artist in Residence - Shangri La - <https://www.shangri lahawaii.org/kamran-samimi/>

Nov 2017 - The Stonecutter - Honolulu Museum of Art Blog: <https://tinyurl.com/yysh6qsn>

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES

**Feb 2024 - Mar 2024** Pacific States Biennial National, Printmaking Dept. University of Hawai'i, Hilo, HI

**Jan 2020 - Mar 2021** Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design, Honolulu, HI