

Transcript: 2021 Young Artists of Hawai'i video

Video length: 4 minutes 20 seconds

Speakers, in order of appearance:

- Kamakani Konia: Project Manager, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), Art in Public Places Program.
- Melissa Shelverton: Art Teacher, Maryknoll Grade School.
- Teig Grennan: Senior Exhibit Specialist, SFCA Art in Public Places Program.
- Monica Lum: Student (Grade 6) DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach.
- Keanu Chun: Student (Grade 5) Helemano Elementary School.
- Kota Maiwela: Student (Grade 2) Queen Ka'ahumanu Elementary School.

SFCA Art in Public Places Program Exhibit Specialists Nate Balcombe, Katherena Rentumis, and Zhi Situ also appear in the video.

Filmed and edited by Derrick Monis and Philip Lemoine for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

[Kamakani Konia] The Young Artists of Hawai'i student art competition is a open competition for students in grades kindergarten to sixth grade. The purpose of this is so that students and families can kind of begin this discussion about their family heritage and their cultural backgrounds

[Melissa Shelverton] Family's family, but when you ask that question in such a academic way, I guess we're in a classroom, they never really thought of it that way. They never really thought that they could put it into words, and in this way in this competition they put it into - art.

[Teig Grennan] So right now it's a little tight on the outside and then we started just now going around [inaudible]

[Kamakani Konia] Being a kid is really tough so for students to have this opportunity to create artwork and to have something that is inherently theirs is something that's really powerful and to help them feel represented, help them feel seen, and when we celebrate those expressions and we engage with that kind of artwork, with that kind of dialogue, we not only see the kids but we also learn to see ourselves as well.

[Monica Lum] I wanted to do something like a mural, to show, like, the journey throughout my life, and like the people I met, my family, my hobbies. So that was really the inspiration of my art.

[Keanu Chun] People should come to the exhibit because all these artworks, and all these other things, they can help inspire someone to make something like that.

[Kota Maiwela] I basically just take a look all around me, and it inspires me with different stuff, and I like to put that stuff all together.

[Melissa Shelverton] They had a lot more confidence in what they were trying to share, and the fact that it was part of who they were, and their family story, I almost feel like - they went through a transformation that they grew as an artist, because they had more information about who they were.

[Monica Lum] They should teach art in school, because art's not just a hobby. You're able to tie art in a lot of things whether it's in math, with like geometry, or whether it's like pictures when you're reading a book, because art is pretty much everywhere and that's pretty important when you think about it.

[Melissa Shelverton] Art is super important because - really it's not just art, it's the idea of being a creator. It's really just problem solving. If you think of it in a different way, that's being creative. As an artist, actually making something, being the creator, you are expressing it.

[Kota Maiwela] Art is a - is a great thing that you should make.

[Keolu Chun] Art is a way to express your feelings to others and to give out a message to others.

[Melissa Lum] I can't really imagine the world without art because it's everywhere really so - yeah I would say art is pretty much a way of life.

Final screen:

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