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An underwater photograph of a person in a black wetsuit surfing. The person is in a crouched position, riding a wave. The water is clear blue, and the sky is visible through the surface. The text 'HE`E NALU' is overlaid in large yellow letters, and 'THE ART AND LEGACY OF HAWAIIAN SURFING' is overlaid in smaller yellow letters below it.

HE`E NALU

THE ART AND LEGACY
OF HAWAIIAN SURFING

HEARD MUSEUM ANNOUNCES MAJOR NEW EXHIBITION FOCUSED ON THE INDIGENOUS ORIGINS OF SURFING

**The exhibition explores the Indigenous Hawaiian roots of surfing through historic objects and
new contemporary artwork**

PHOENIX, Ariz. (July 18, 2022) — The Heard Museum is pleased to announce its forthcoming exhibition *He`e Nalu: The Art and Legacy of Hawaiian Surfing*, opening on January 6, 2023. The exhibition explores the Indigenous origins of surfing through the presentation and interpretation of historic material made by notable cultural practitioners as well as new contemporary artwork and site-specific installations created by leading Indigenous Hawaiian artists. The stories and histories of surfing will be shared through a Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) perspective through the process of mo`olelo, the method of storytelling “how it came to be.”

“He`e Nalu: The Art and Legacy of Hawaiian Surfing will cover 2,000 years of surfing history and Indigenous creative expression, from the earliest stories of surfer deities to contemporary works of art addressing the complicated relationship that Native Hawaiians have with the surfing industry today,” says David M. Roche, Dickey Family Director & CEO.



Image courtesy of Anne BC Stone

The artists will navigate this complex relationship with the sport of surfing through its evolution into a Western-dominated industry, beginning with wave sliding as a daily cultural practice in the Hawaiian Islands. This exhibition explores themes such as the surfing stories of old, the Hawaiian monarchy, a tribute to Kānaka Maoli surfing legends, disenfranchisement of Native Hawaiians within the surfing community, sexual exploitation of women within the surfing patriarchy of the surf industry, Hawaiian roots in modern-day surfing innovations, the cultural practice of surfing in a new generation, and pressing environmental concerns regarding global marine ecosystems.

The exhibition is organized by guest curator Carolyn Kualii (Kānaka Maoli) and Heard Museum Assistant Curator Velma Kee Craig (Diné), with artwork by Kānaka Maoli artists Soloman Enos, Lehuauakea, Daniel Ikaika Ito, Pōhaku Kaho`ohanohano, Christopher Kahunahana, Clifford Kaponu, Ha`a Keaulana, Ian Kualii, Nicole Naone, Rick San Nicolas, Tom Pōhaku Stone, and Cory Kamehanaokalā Taum.



Image courtesy of Hawaii State Archives. Call Number: PP-97-17-008.

“For me, *He`e Nalu: The Art and Legacy of Hawaiian Surfing* is more than an exhibition—it’s an opportunity to celebrate something that was always important to me as I was growing up, which was surfing,” says curator Carolyn Kualii. “Surfing is a cultural practice and national sport for us in Hawai`i ... I’m excited to be able to share with the visitors what is Hawaiian when it comes to surfing and feature some of the excellence that is coming from Hawai`i.”

He`e Nalu: The Art and Legacy of Hawaiian Surfing is made possible thanks to Hawaiian Airlines, Bank of America, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Matson Foundation, Zone Media, Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, with leadership support from patrons of the Grand Gallery Exhibition Fund and Heard Museum Members.

CONTACT: For information about the exhibition, please contact: media@heard.org.

LOCATION: Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dj1rtjm3gksgktv/AADsestBxsgrtnhN-yN6oPb5a?dl=0>

About the Heard Museum

Since its founding in 1929, the Heard Museum, a private nonprofit organization, has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, world-class exhibitions, educational programming and unmatched festivals. Dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art, the Heard successfully presents the stories of American Indian people from a first-person perspective as well as exhibitions that showcase the beauty and vitality of traditional and contemporary art. The Heard Museum is supported, in part, by the generosity of Heard Museum members and donors, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. In association with the Smithsonian, the Heard Museum is part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

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