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O‘AHU ARTIST LELAND MIYANO TO TRANSFORM THE ACADEMY THIS SUMMER

The winner of the Catharine E.B. Cox award, known for his use of natural materials, will create three-site specific installations that will be on view June 18-August 24.

HONOLULU, HAWAII – As the 2008 recipient of the Honolulu Academy of Arts’ biennial Catharine E.B. Cox award, Honolulu-based sculptor, landscape designer, and naturalist Leland Miyano will create three site-specific installations at the museum. The protégé of internationally known Brazilian landscape designer Roberto Burle Marx, Miyano creates sculptures and installations that reflect cycles of regeneration in nature and environmental issues.

Using native materials, Miyano addresses the larger themes of man in nature and the existence of the spiritual. For this exhibition, he worked primarily with Hawaiian basalts and wood, accented with other rare, natural materials such as the world’s largest seed—the double coconut of the endangered *Lodoicea maldivica* palm from Seychelles. Deeply reverent of his materials, Miyano celebrates their inherent qualities with minimal manipulation. Having worked in stone for more than 30 years, he allows each piece to unveil its unique character by letting “stone be stone.” At the Academy Miyano will transform indoor and outdoor spaces. The John Dominis and Patches Damon Holt Gallery will feature an installation of basalt cores set amidst Volcano School paintings. The 3,000-pound alabaster sculpture *Iliahi*, or “shallow grave,” will be in the Mediterranean Courtyard, while Miyano’s ode to the *wunderkammer*, a sculpture installation in Gallery 10, are smaller in scale and more delicate. These works, from Miyano’s own cabinet of curiosities, include sarcophagi and book forms articulated in wood.

For decades, Miyano has cultivated a one-acre plant-and-rock garden, lush with a fine balance of plants—from towering trees from Madagascar to smaller cycads and endemic Hawaiian plants—at his Kahalu‘u home. Plants are selected and placed to be mutually beneficial in this self-sustaining environment. Meandering the paths through the dense, yet carefully edited garden aids our understanding of the way he creates his sculptures.

“To have developed his way of creating a garden is something that one only achieves when one lives with, observes and studies how plants grow, reproduce and die,” the late Burle Marx once said of Miyano. In his exhibition at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the artist sculpturally communicates his messages, based on his cultivated understanding of

natural materials. His works aim to remind us of our symbiotic relationship with the environment.

Catharine E.B. Cox Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts

The Catharine E.B. Cox Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts was established in 1985 by Cox's grandsons Charles S. Cox of La Jolla, California, and Doak C. Cox and Richard H. Cox of Honolulu. A former art teacher, Cox helped Academy founder Anna Rice Cooke research and catalog her collection and went on to serve as the Academy's first director, from 1927 to 1928, overseeing the preparation and opening of the institution in 1927. She continued her distinguished association with the Academy as a member of the board of trustees until 1934, acting as the board's secretary. She died in 1964.

The Catharine E.B. Cox Award is given biennially to former or current Hawai'i residents and grants the recipient a one-person exhibition at the Academy. They are selected on the basis of their demonstrated talent and promise, with first consideration given to emerging visual artists working in any media.

About the Honolulu Academy of Arts

The Honolulu Academy of Arts is an encyclopedic art museum founded in 1927, and is Hawaii's largest private presenter of visual arts programs with a permanent collection of more than 50,000 works of art. The Academy is the only art museum in Hawaii accredited by the American Association of Museums.

The Academy's permanent collection includes more than 20,000 works of Asian art, with galleries dedicated to Japan, China, Korea, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The collection is especially strong in Chinese and Japanese paintings, Korean ceramics, Buddhist and Shinto sculpture, South and Southeast Asian sculpture and decorative arts, and textiles from across Asia. The crown jewel of the Academy's Asian art collection is the James A. Michener Collection of more than 10,000 Japanese *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints, the third largest collection of its kind in the United States.

The Academy's permanent collection also includes Europe and American paintings, sculptures, decorative arts and textiles, as well as more than 15,000 works on paper comprising the largest concentration of works in the European and American collection ranging in date from the Renaissance to the present. Among highlights are major impressionist, post-impressionist and early modernist paintings by Georges Braque, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Fernand Léger, Henri Matisse, Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and James McNeill Whistler. Significant works of art from the 20th century to the present include works by Lee Bontecou, Alexander Calder, Leon Golub, Philip Guston, Yan Pei Ming, Isamu Noguchi, Nam June Paik, John Singer Sargent, David Smith, Masami Teraoka, and Won Ju Lim.

General Information: Location: 900 S. Beretania St. **Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4:30 pm; Sunday 1-5 pm; closed Monday. Guided tours are offered Tuesday-Saturday at 10:15 am, 11:30 am and 1:30 pm; Sunday at 1:15 pm. Japanese language tours are offered Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 1 pm. **Admission:** \$10 general; \$5 for seniors (62+), students (13 and over), and military; members and children 12 and under are free.

General info line: 532-8700; Recorded info lines: (Exhibitions) 532-8701, (Theatre Events) 532-8768; or visit www.honoluluacademy.org.