

Star Advertiser

Monday, November 21, 2011 81.0°F

Home News Sports Business Editorial Features Pulse Travel Multimedia e-Edition Longs Drugs Homes Jobs Cars Classifieds

APEC 2011 Dining Out Back Issues Corrections Obituaries Traffic Special Projects Movies TV Week About Us Customer Service

Prudential Locations

SEARCH

Archive Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun

www.staradvertiser.com > FeaturesPremium >

Print Email Comment | View Comments Most Popular Save Post Retweet

APECalyse Now?

Artists explore the effects of free trade on the land and the disenfranchised

By David A.M. Goldberg / Special to the Star-Advertiser

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Nov 20, 2011

retweet Share 0

The Nov. 9 edition of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser included a four-page "everything you need to know about APEC" spread: an essay, crib notes and info-graphics backed by a digital photo collage by Bryant Fukutomi. Glass fishing floats of various sizes, each one representing a "member economy," were arranged on a local beach, with the word "APEC" written in the sand.

This arrangement of baubles at the water line is a perfect visual symbol for the arrival and departure of APEC's representative groups. But the artists, activists, community members and scholars who collaborated on the "alterna-APEC" show at The ARTS at Marks Garage present a fundamentally different perspective on what APEC meant to Hawaii and the world.

Co-curated by Noelle Kahanu, Jaimey Hamilton and Rich Richardson, the exhibition is united by a strategy of presenting bold, accessible images and ideas through painting, sculpture, photography and graphic design. The works challenge the idea that APEC's goal of reducing barriers to the circulation of money, labor and resources (together called "trade liberalization") is an inherently good thing.

Keiko Bonk replaces the prayers in flags from the Tibetan and Nepalese tradition with QR codes — those patterns of

dots or squares that smartphones can decode. Each is accompanied by a simple assertion, such as "corporations are not people" and "economy is not sacred." Because QR codes are part of corporate advertising tactics that link to websites, Bonk is playing with the idea that the forces we engage and worship are economic entities, not spiritual ones.

Eating in Public also uses recognizable elements to inform its work. The collective's public workshops encouraged participants to print anti-APEC slogans on old T-shirts. Two are on display here. One is a tie-dye pattern that evokes Mickey Mouse (and thereby Disney's Aulani resort) with the equation "APEC = land-theft" printed over it. The other features a blond female lifeguard obstructed by the words "welcome APEC welcome PILAU." If these sentiments seem hostile or surprising, Eating in Public's free "SAME ENEMY SAME FIGHT" booklet offers visitors a broader context than the general media.

The AGGRoculture Collective relates APEC's pursuit of trade liberalization to local struggles against the profit-

driven and often foreign-based use of land and

Latest News/Updates

Waipahu High employee pleads guilty to stealing school money - 10:27 a.m.

Hawaii moves up to No. 3 in volleyball poll - 10:02 a.m.

Danielson WAC player of year, Hawaii dominates awards - 09:42 a.m.

Fresno State coach praises UH quarterback Graves - 09:02 a.m.

View All | Breaking News >

Columns

Kokua Line Refund checks generated by suit over currency fees

Further Review Puckered lips not enough to bring Pacquiao to town

Ocean Watch Majestic whale sharks make

View All | Columns >

Blogs

Warrior Beat Last-chance run

Small Talk Is nail polish the new lipstick?

Volleyshots Danielson POY, Wahine dominate WAC awards

View All | Blogs >



PICS: Point Panic



PICS: Ronald



PICS: Bone Marrow

resources. "The Rat and the Octopus" is a triptych of photographs featuring two allegorical characters, the land speculator and the construction worker, and their magic economic ritual that turns land into a commodity.

In the left panel, the phone-toting speculator wears a lime-green suit printed with a repeating pattern of handshakes and blooming dollar-flowers. The construction worker in the right panel exudes confidence in a stylized safety orange jumpsuit with reflective stripes. In between the two shake hands to seal the unspecified deal for the coastline behind them.

The "Passionista! Undressing Globalization and Militarism" fashion show also address the artistic and critical role that clothing can play. APEC has a tradition of chief representatives posing for a "class photo" dressed in the traditional garb of the host economy. "Passionista!" inverts this performance by designing clothes assembled from the lives of the women who work the low-wage outsourced jobs that often emerge from free-trade agreements.

Hybrids of traditional garments from countries such as Peru, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines invite us to unite the stories of many different women in one narrative of resistance to exploitation.

Representing Papua New Guinea, the least developed of the "member economies," painter Jeffrey Feeger addresses his country's informal economic practices.

"My Lovely Market" is a deceptively accessible portrait of a woman selling her meager stock of fruit, cigarettes and vegetables. Feeger explains that his country's government is ill equipped to deal with the multinational powers seeking access to valuable forest products, minerals and labor. By painting these women, using an innovative technique that favors the use of hands and fingers over brushes, Feeger documents a culture at the edge of trade liberalization.

We might benefit from taking a similar look at ourselves. Now that APEC is over, we might ask, What happened?

Probably before the "new nonlethal weaponry smell!" in the Honolulu Police Department's updated arsenal could fade, Kollin Elderts was shot and killed by U.S. diplomatic security agent Christopher Deedy. The Elderts family suffered more than we who merely coped with desert camouflage Hummers blocking streets and onramps, and the local business owners who languished in secured zones.

President Barack Obama and hundreds of business representatives, foreign dignitaries and heads of state came and went like glass floats. The visitor industry is going over the receipts, minus some of the general excise and hotel room taxes.

Compared with the massive anti-APEC public responses triggered by earlier meetings held in South Korea, Japan and Australia, Hawaii's geographic isolation proved advantageous to conference participants.

Fortunately, we have courageous artists willing to weigh their values against those that are determined exclusively by economic assessment.

'ALTERNA-APEC'

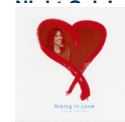
- » On exhibit: Noon to 4 p.m. today
- » Where: The ARTS at Marks Garage, 1159 Nuuanu Ave.
- » Call: 521-2903 or visit www.artsatmarks.com

concert on Maui



PICS: Malama Palama

McDonald House 'Share a Heart'



Music: Lehua Kalima takes it solo

Registry Fashion Show



PICS: 'Soulgasm' 4th Anniversary at thirtyninehotel



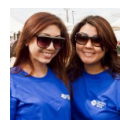
PICS: 'Winter Wonderland Surf Party' at SoHo



PICS: 'Jeri Lee's Birthday Bash' at Tsukiji's



PICS: 'Eco Love Pool Party' at Queen Kapiolani



PICS: Taste of Kalihi



PICS: Wolfgang's Fashion Show



PICS: Jack Johnson at Children's Discovery Center

- **Scene+Heard: Spreading aloha in NYC**
- **Music: The Green debuts at No. 1**
- **Food La La: Holiday tastings at Whole Foods**
- **Review: 'Twilight' saga breaks down**
- **Social Encore: Taste of Kalihi and Restaurant Week**

Print Email Comment | View Comments Most Popular Save Post Retweet

COMMENTS 999

You must be subscribed to participate in discussions

By participating in online discussions you acknowledge that you have read and agreed to the **TERMS OF SERVICE**. Any violations of these terms may result in account suspension or deactivation. Please keep your comments civil and in good taste. To report a comment, email commentfeedback@staradvertiser.com.

Leave a comment

Name: kirstenrae
Comment:

SUBMIT COMMENT

allie wrote:
Very creative and positive! Great group!

on November 20,2011 | 07:17AM

REPLY

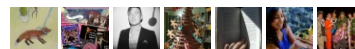
LongJon wrote:

The artists for this show (as well as Arts At Mark's Garage) are to be complimented for their conceptual and visual statements. However, I must take exception to Mr. Goldberg's use of the word "Courageous" in reference to the artists. "Courageous" describes members of our armed forces defending the right of artists making statements against certain aspects of the government that gives them the freedom to dissent. Enjoying the highest quality of life in the world while creating visual art can be thought provoking, confrontational, revealing, radical and much more. But courageous? Come on. Let's reserve that word for the men and women who truly deserve it.

on November 20,2011 | 11:57AM

This Week in TGIF Calendar of Events More Entertainment Coverage

Like Kirsten Rae Simonsen, CherryBlossom Cabaret and 7,265 others like this.

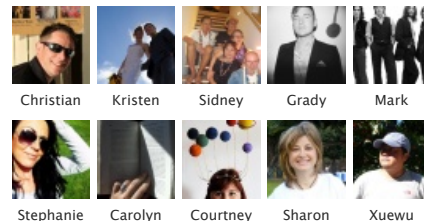


Find us on Facebook

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Like You like this.

37,856 people like Honolulu Star-Advertiser.



Facebook social plugin

<p>HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back Issues ▪ Corrections ▪ e-Edition ▪ Movie Showtimes ▪ Weather and Surf ▪ RSS ▪ Twitter ▪ Facebook ▪ Place My Ad ▪ Purchase Photos ▪ Terms of Service ▪ Privacy Policy ▪ Contact Us ▪ About Us 	<p>NEWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newswatch ▪ Police and Fire ▪ Obituaries ▪ Vital Statistics ▪ Island Images ▪ Facts of the Matter ▪ flASHback ▪ Incidental Lives ▪ Kokua Line ▪ Lee Cataluna ▪ Ocean Watch ▪ Volcanic Ash ▪ New York Times ▪ Special Projects 	<p>SPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ferd's Words ▪ Further Review ▪ Life in the Minors ▪ Hawaii Prep World ▪ Hawaii Beat ▪ Hawaii Grown Report ▪ Scoreboards ▪ TV and Radio 	<p>BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Buzz ▪ Parkway ▪ Akamai Money ▪ Health and Money ▪ Tech View ▪ Business Briefs ▪ Real Estate Sales <p>EDITORIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our View ▪ Guest Columns ▪ Off the News ▪ Letters to the Editor ▪ Name in the News ▪ On Politics ▪ Under the Sun ▪ Kauakūalahale 	<p>FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By Request ▪ K-Drama ▪ Outtakes ▪ Show Biz ▪ Health Options ▪ Be Well ▪ Tryouts ▪ Health Scene ▪ Training Day ▪ The Green Leaf ▪ By the Glass ▪ Looking Back ▪ Electric Kitchen ▪ Urban Gardener ▪ Woodcraft <p>CALENDARS</p>	<p>PULSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ includes TGIF ▪ Photo galleries <p>HAWAII FIVE-0</p> <p>MULTIMEDIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video <p>TRAVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hawaii's Back Yard ▪ Isle Hopping <p>DINING OUT</p> <p>COMICS</p> <p>GAMES</p>	<p>HOMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hawaii Renovation ▪ Place My Ad ▪ Listings ▪ Rentals ▪ Foreclosures ▪ Find an Agent ▪ Homes <p>JOBS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place My Ad ▪ Monster.com <p>CARS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place My Ad ▪ Hawaii's Cars ▪ AutoTrader.com 	<p>CLASSIFIEDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place My Ad ▪ Obituaries ▪ Cars ▪ Jobs ▪ Foreclosures ▪ Homes <p>MEMBER SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Log In ▪ Log Out ▪ Change Password ▪ Forgot Password ▪ Manage Online Account <p>ADVERTISING MEDIA KIT</p>
---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---

News | Jobs | Cars for Sale | Hawaii Rentals | Hawaii Real Estate | Shopping | Customer Service



Star Advertiser

Copyright © 2011 staradvertiser.com. All rights reserved.
500 Ala Moana Boulevard. #7-210, Honolulu, HI 96813 Telephone (808) 529-4747

APECalypse

Now?

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST,

Nov 20, 2011

StarAdvertiser.com

Artists explore the effects of free trade on the land and the disenfranchised

By David A.M. Goldberg / Special to the Star-Advertiser

The Nov. 9 edition of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser included a four-page "everything you need to know about APEC" spread: an essay, crib notes and info-graphics backed by a digital photo collage by Bryant Fukutomi. Glass fishing floats of various sizes, each one representing a "member economy," were arranged on a local beach, with the word "APEC" written in the sand.

This arrangement of baubles at the water line is a perfect visual symbol for the arrival and departure of APEC's representative groups. But the artists,